



AN INTERSECTIONAL APPROACH TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA IN SOUTHERN AFRICA:

*Leveraging data to
Leave No One Behind*



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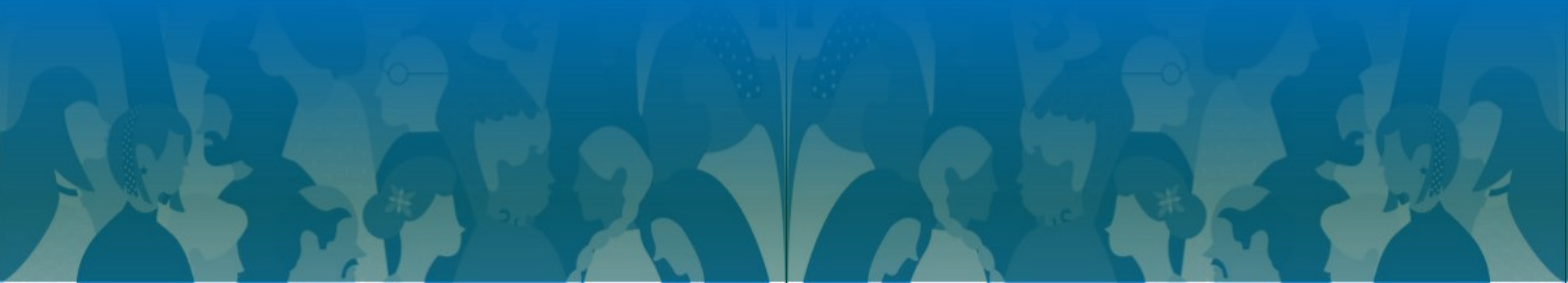


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Acronyms

- CESCR** – Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- CSO** – Civil society organization
- ESCR** – Economic, social and cultural rights
- GHS** – General Household Survey
- ICESCR** – International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- HRBA** – Human rights-based approach
- HRBAD** – Human rights-based approach to data
- KHRC** - Kenya Human Rights Commission
- KNBS** - Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
- LFS** – Labour Force Survey
- LNOB** – Leave no one behind
- MoU** – Memorandum of understanding
- NHRI** – National Human Rights Institution
- NHIES** – Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey
- NMRF** – National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up
- NPC** – national planning commission
- NSA** – Namibia Statistics Agency
- NSO** – National statistical office
- QLF** – Quarterly Labour Force Survey
- SAHRC** – South African Human Rights Commission
- SARS** – South African Revenue Service
- SDG** – Sustainable Development Goal
- SM** – Statistics Mauritius
- StatsSA** – Statistics South Africa
- VNR** – Voluntary National Review



INTRODUCTION

Human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are interconnected and interrelated. Achieving the SDGs will require significant effort and cooperation across a large number of policy domains, including in the realm of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). Realising the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (the ICESCR) will be crucial for achieving the SDGs. Simultaneously, the ICESCR must be implemented in a manner that responds to the foundational principle of [Agenda 2030](#), namely that of Leave No One Behind (LNOB).

Those at risk of being left furthest behind are often rendered invisible by data collection, analysis and use practices that fail to recognise intersecting forms of disadvantage and discrimination. As such, to properly understand the relationship between ESCR and the SDGs from a LNOB perspective, disaggregated data (collected by asking questions that put individuals' and communities' voices at the forefront) is required to measure and monitor the extent to which marginalised groups in situations of vulnerability are able to enjoy their ESCR and sustainable development outcomes.

To understand the inequalities faced by people who are affected by intersectional discrimination, data should be disaggregated by, among other things, race, ethnicity, age, gender identity or expression, disability, language, minority status, religion or belief, sex, sex characteristics and sexual orientation.¹

This advocacy brief explores these themes with reference to three Southern African countries that are State Parties to the ICESCR and actively report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (the CDESCR),² Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa, with a view to: (i) understanding the existing socio-economic data landscapes in Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa; (ii) illustrating some of the gaps in existing socio-economic data which have been identified by the CDESCR; (iii) outlining a Human Rights Based Approach to data (HRBAD) in Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa, particularly in relation to the ICESCR and CDESCR; and (iv) making recommendations as to how *existing* socio-economic data can be analysed in a manner which reveals the extent of intersectional forms of disadvantage and discrimination. The overall aim is to support States meet their human rights obligations and enable the progressive realisation of social and economic rights.

A desk review methodology informs this advocacy brief, which was substantially enriched by the participation of national statistical offices in the completion of a survey that was administered in a semi-structured interview format. Methodological limitations include language barriers in respect of certain countries in the sub-region, as well as the inability to secure interviews with all national statistical offices. Continued engagement with the findings of this advocacy brief by all stakeholders will be necessary to ensure sustainable impact through the consistent adoption of a HRBAD that serves to leave no one behind.



1. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA LANDSCAPES IN MAURITIUS, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

The chief institutional actor of relevance for purposes of this advocacy brief is the national statistical office (NSO). In the context of Mauritius, this means Statistics Mauritius (SM); in Namibia, the relevant NSO is the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), and in South Africa it is Statistics South Africa (StatsSA). These three NSOs are primarily responsible for the collection of official statistics in Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa, which means that they collect the bulk of the socio-economic data relevant for purposes of this advocacy brief. Surveys in an interview format were sent to NSOs in the above-mentioned countries, and where responses were received, they have substantially informed the findings in this advocacy brief.³ In addition to the NSOs, a variety of other actors collect relevant socio-economic data. This includes data collected by National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), civil society organisations (CSOs), and other governmental actors, such as tax authorities or planning departments, and academic institutions. In this section, an overview of the socio-economic data already being collected by each NSO is provided, and data collected by other actors is highlighted.

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1.1 Mauritius

Censuses

In Mauritius, a census is due to be conducted every 10 years and consists of housing and population surveys, which are usually administered separately but successively in the same year. The data obtained from the two surveys include information on housing, demographics, migration, health, education, employment, marital status, religion and literacy, among other things. Census data can thus be used to illustrate the extent to which a number of ICESCR rights are realised over time, including the right to work (Article 6), the right to an adequate standard of living (Article 11), health rights (Article 12) and the right to education (Article 13). Given that the data can be disaggregated by a number of different demographic factors such as religion or sex, it can also be used to assess the extent to which Mauritius complies with its Article 2 obligation to guarantee that ICESCR rights are exercised without discrimination, as well as for identifying to what extent certain population groups are at risk of being left behind.

Survey of employment and earnings

Additionally, SM administers a survey of employment and earnings on an annual basis. The survey, which is aimed at firms, captures data, chiefly relating to Mauritians, on the salaries/wages and other forms of income of formal workers, as well as on vacancies within firms, use of information and communication technologies, the manner in which the firm is legally organised and who owns the firm in question, among other things. The data obtained from administering this survey can be relied on to track the realisation over time of certain ICESCR rights, particularly the right to work (Article 6), of persons that are formally employed. While this data can be disaggregated in a number of ways, for example by sex (as opposed to gender), it could be further improved from a LNOB perspective if data on informal employment and earnings was collected, to enable an assessment of the extent to which informal workers are realising their ESCR.

Continuous multipurpose household survey

SM also administers a continuous multipurpose household survey on a quarterly basis. This survey is administered to households, and collects information on demographics, education, employment, housing and living conditions, and household expenditure and other income. This data can be disaggregated in a number of ways, including by age, geographical district, sex, marital status and educational attainment, and is particularly useful for gauging the extent of realisation of the right to work (Article 6), the right to an adequate standard of living (Article 11) – especially its adequate housing component – and the right to education (Article 13). The bulk of the questions posed to respondents as part of this survey focuses on labour force issues. In this instance, the data captured includes data on workers active in the informal sectors of the economy. However, the survey could be strengthened further by exploring the extent to which respondents engage in unpaid forms of work, including caring for children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Household budget survey

The household budget survey is conducted approximately every five years by SM (the most recent one having been completed in 2017), and results in detailed data being collected on income and the manner in which households use their budgets. Households are asked about how they spend their money, including in relation to municipal rates, housing, water, electricity, internet access, and medical and other insurance, among other things. Households are also surveyed on their debt situation and are asked basic questions on quality of life. As in the case of census data, this data can be relied on to show the extent to which a number of ICESCR rights are realised over time, including the right to work (Article 6), the right to an adequate standard of living (Article 11), health rights (Article 12) and the right to education (Article 13). The data can be disaggregated by a number of different demographic factors, including sex, age, geographical district and marital status.

Other sources of socio-economic data collected by Statistics Mauritius

SM also periodically conducts a number of additional surveys which constitute rich sources of socio-economic data. These, for example, include a census of economic activities, which is administered every five years, first to so-called small establishments, and then to large establishments (last conducted in 2018) and a detailed living conditions survey (last conducted in 2018/19). SM also aggregates data from administrative sources, especially on births, deaths, marriages and divorces.

Socio-economic data collected by institutions other than Statistics Mauritius

While the focus of this advocacy brief is on NSOs, it should be borne in mind that while SM is the predominant official data collector, it is not the only data collector in Mauritius. Relevant socio-economic data is also collected by, among others, the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Civil Status Office, the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, the Bank of Mauritius and the Mauritius Revenue Authority, as well as by independent bodies such as the Mauritius Equal Opportunity Commission. Socio-economic data is also collected by a large number of CSOs, academic institutions and international organisations working across a broad spectrum of policy domains.⁵

Accessibility

A large amount of the data discussed above is available in one form or another on the SM website. The full datasets, however, which allow for more complete disaggregation, are only available for specific purposes, largely research-oriented, on request from SM and subject to the payment of a fee.





1.2 Namibia

Population and housing censuses

The NSA is mandated to undertake a population and housing census every 10 years. The NSA is currently in the process of completing the census that was originally scheduled for 2021, with the next most recent census having been carried out in 2011. The data obtained from the census includes information on housing, demographics, health, education, employment, migrations, births and deaths and access to information and communication technology services, among other things. Census data can be used to illustrate the extent to which different population groups – such as people of different sexes, ages or disability statuses – realise their ESCR, including the right to work (Article 6), the right to an adequate standard of living (Article 11), health rights (Article 12) and the right to education (Article 13).

National household income and expenditure survey

Every five years, the NSA administers a household income and expenditure survey (NHIES), which serves as one of the primary sources of socio-economic data in Namibia. The NHIES is used to collect data on income, consumption and expenditure patterns of households and can be used to calculate poverty and income distribution indicators, among other things. The most recent version of the NHIES was run in 2015/16. NHIES data can be used to examine the extent of ESCR realisation as in the case of census data, but often in more specific ways. For example, the latest NHIES asked respondents for fairly detailed answers on how much – and what type of – food they had consumed in the week prior to taking the survey. These responses enable one to construct a fairly detailed snapshot of the state of the right to freedom from hunger (Article 11(2)), but also the right to adequate

food (as part of the broader right to an adequate standard of living under Article 11 (1)). NHIES data can be disaggregated by sex, age and geography, as well as by marital, citizenship and migration status, and can therefore potentially inform an LNOB analysis that explores exclusionary factors including discrimination and geography in order to determine who is at risk of being left behind.

Labour force survey

The NSA also undertakes an “annual” labour force survey (LFS). The LFS is used to collect data on labour market activities of individuals. The most recent LFS was conducted in 2018. LFS data can be disaggregated by sex, age, language, educational attainment and geography, as well as by marital, citizenship, disability and migration status. It includes data on both formal and informal work, and also distinguishes between paid and unpaid work. In addition to being capable of showing the extent to which the right to work (Article 6) is being realised, the LFS, among other things, captures data which can be used to evaluate the state of the rights to social security and social insurance (Article 9) and protection and assistance for the family (Article 10) in Namibia, e.g. survey respondents are asked about whether they receive various forms of social assistance, including child maintenance grants, disability grants and unemployment insurance.

Other sources of socio-economic data collected by the NSA

The NSA also conducts a number of additional surveys, often on an ad hoc basis. While a number of these datasets often come from one-off surveys and are accordingly not able to illustrate changes over time, they can still be very helpful sources of socio-economic data.



Examples in this regard include social statistics survey (which has been conducted on a number of occasions, the most recent iteration of which is from 2016), an intercensal demographic survey (conducted in 2016), a financial inclusion survey (conducted in 2017) and a land statistics report (produced in 2018 and which constitutes a compilation by the NSA of external data sources). The NSA also aggregates data from administrative sources, especially on births, deaths and marriages.

Socio-economic data collected by institutions other than the NSA

While the focus of this advocacy brief is on NSOs, it should be borne in mind that while the NSA is the predominant official data collector, it is not the only data collector in Namibia. Relevant socio-economic data is also collected by, among others, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Socio-economic data is also collected by the Office of the Ombud as Namibia's NHRI, a large number of CSOs, academic institutions, and international organisations working across a broad spectrum of policy domains.

Accessibility

A significant portion of the data referred to above, collected by the NSA is available via the NSA's [online microdata catalogue](#),⁶ a platform that can be accessed by any member of the public that has access to the internet and an appropriate device such as a laptop.⁷ The NSA currently uploads a small number of datasets compiled by other institutions (predominantly the Ministry of Health and Social Services) to the platform.





1.3 South Africa

Censuses and community surveys

Perhaps the most comprehensive source of socio-economic data in South Africa is the census. Since the current statistics legislation came into effect in 1999, StatsSA has conducted three comprehensive censuses – in 2001, 2011 and 2022 respectively. In 2007 and 2016, StatsSA additionally conducted so-called community surveys, which are largescale surveys that entail questions which are largely the same as those that would be posed in a census. Both censuses and community surveys are rich sources of data, and include information on housing, demographics, migration, health, education, employment, income and social grants, fertility, household goods, services, crime and agricultural activities, among other things.

Census and community survey data can be used to track the extent to which a broad range of ESCRs are being realised, including the right to work (Article 6), the right to social security and social insurance (Article 9), the right to protection and assistance for the family (Article 10), the right to an adequate standard of living (Article 11), health rights (Article 12), the right to education (Article 13) and the right to culture and to benefit from scientific progress (Article 15).

The data can also be disaggregated in various ways, including by sex, age, disability status, marital status, race, language, religion, migration status, citizenship status and geography, thereby making it possible to identify who is at risk of being left behind on the bases of multiple forms of discrimination including gender-based discrimination, and geography.

Annual general household survey

In order to keep certain information of the kind collected by way of censuses and community surveys current, StatsSA also administers a general household survey (**GHS**) on an annual basis. The GHS is used to collect data on the living circumstances of South African households and includes data on education, health, social development, housing, access to services and facilities, food security and agriculture, among other things.

Quarterly labour force survey

Another way in which StatsSA seeks to keep certain information of the kind collected by way of censuses and community surveys current is through its quarterly labour force survey (**QLFS**). The QLFS is used to collect data on labour market activities of individuals aged 15 years or older.

Other sources of socio-economic data collected by StatsSA

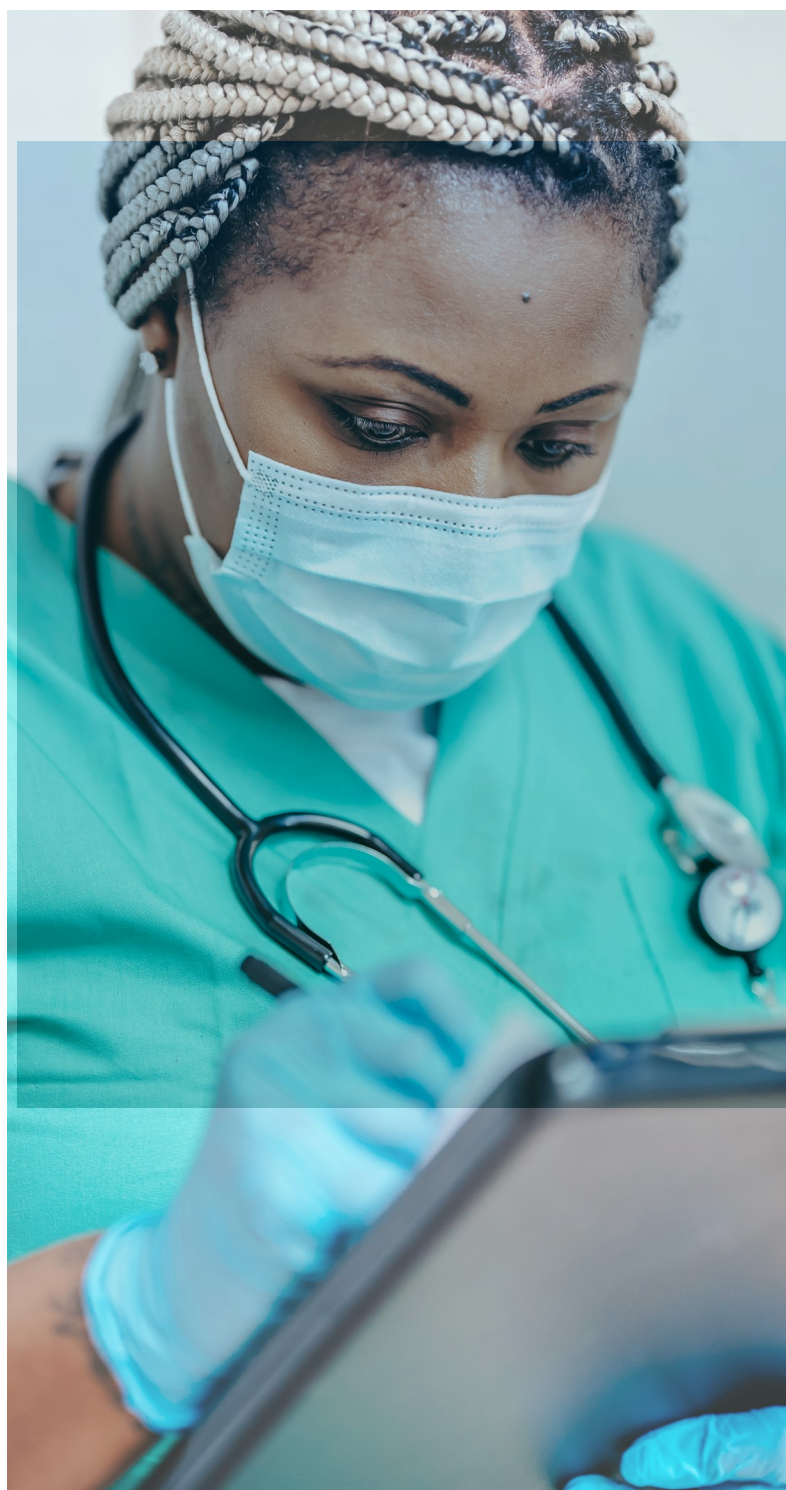
StatsSA also periodically conducts a number of additional surveys, with the data collected from these surveys being capable of disaggregation by sex, age and disability status, among other things. These include, for example, an income and expenditure survey (conducted in 2000, 2005-6 and 2010-11) and a living conditions survey (conducted in 2008-9 and 2014-5), both of which are good sources of poverty data. StatsSA has also, at various intervals, conducted a time use survey (most recently in 2010), a survey on the activities of young people (most recently in 2019), a survey on governance, public safety and justice (most recently in 2021-2) and a survey of employers and the self-employed (most recently in 2017), among other surveys. StatsSA also aggregates data from administrative sources, chiefly on births and mortality.

Socio-economic data collected by institutions other than StatsSA

While StatsSA is the predominant official data collector, it is not the only data collector in South Africa (it is, however, legislatively mandated to play a co-ordinating role among all official data collectors). Another important actor in this regard is the [South African Human Rights Commission \(SAHRC\)](#), which has a broad constitutional mandate that includes a monitoring mandate in respect of ESCR. The SAHRC thus generates administrative data from complaints, hearings and monitoring activities. Relevant socio-economic data is also collected by, among others, National Treasury, the South African Revenue Service ([SARS](#)), the South African Police Service, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, the Department of Health, the Department of Social Development and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Socio-economic data is also collected by a large number of CSOs, academic and research institutions, and international organisations working across a broad spectrum of policy domains.

Accessibility

All data referred to above, collected by StatsSA is available on a platform ([SuperWEB2](#)) that can be accessed by any member of the public that has access to the internet and an appropriate device such as a laptop.⁸ StatsSA currently does not upload data collected by other institutions to SuperWEB2.





2. THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS' RECOMMENDATIONS ON DATA IN MAURITIUS, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

Socio-economic data gaps cannot be identified in the abstract. Instead, gaps must be identified with reference to specific aims and objectives or, in the case of the ICESCR, ESCR obligations and the recommendations and other jurisprudence emanating from the CESCR. While best practice should be to identify socio-economic data gaps in a systematic fashion on a regular basis, data gaps are often identified on an ad hoc basis in practice. In this section, attention is drawn to three examples of these sorts of gaps as identified by the CESCR.

2.1 *Mauritius*

In its concluding observations for Mauritius (2019),⁹ the CESCR, while noting that Mauritius had taken certain steps in relation to the members of its population living on Rodrigues Island, expressed concern ‘that the Creole population, including persons living on Rodrigues Island, continue to face systemic disadvantages in their enjoyment of the [ICESCR] rights, particularly in the areas of employment, housing, health care and education’.¹⁰ It further expressed its concern that ‘Creoles are disproportionately affected by poverty’ and indicated a particular concern, ‘about the situation of the Malaise Creoles, who are the most marginalized among the Creole population’.¹¹

The CESCR accordingly recommended that Mauritius ‘assess the effectiveness of the measures taken and design and implement other measures, including temporary special measures, in accordance with paragraph 39 of its general comment No. 20, with the participation of representatives of the Creole population, to ensure that they have effective and equal access to employment, adequate housing, health-care services and inclusive quality education’.¹² It also recommended that Mauritius ‘monitor the situation of the economic, social and cultural rights enjoyed by the Malaise Creoles and take the measures necessary to address the situation’.¹³

SM has been making a particular effort to collect data in relation to Rodriguans. On the SM website, there is a page dedicated specifically to presenting statistics on the island of Rodrigues, including population and vital statistics, inter-island travel and tourism, health, public finance, trade, employment, social security, education, transport and communication, local production, construction and climate.¹⁴ The page contains reports on these statistics all the way back to 1994, and contains the actual data which these reports are based on from 2014 to 2021. That said, SM and its institutional predecessors have not collected population data based on ethnicity since 1952, and have indeed been legally barred from doing so. As such, even though it has collected data specific to Rodrigues Island, it is unclear in the absence of proper data to what extent Creoles, particularly Malaise Creoles, are realising their rights under the ICESCR. This information would contribute towards determining the extent to which policy in Mauritius is geared towards leaving no one behind,¹⁵ and reaching those at risk of being left furthest behind, first.

2.2 Namibia

In its concluding observations for Namibia (2016), the CESCR noted ‘with concern the persistently high unemployment, especially among the youth and women, and the large informal economy in [Namibia],¹⁶ and accordingly recommended a number of measures, including [improving], as soon as possible, its data collection system on unemployment as a tool for combating that phenomenon effectively, by conducting the [LFS] as frequently as possible and generating data disaggregated by factors related to the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups’.¹⁷ Since then, Namibia has conducted the LFS on only one occasion – in 2018. To the NSA’s credit, the data collected via the LFS can be disaggregated by age, sex, geography (rural/urban), citizenship, and migration status. It also collected certain data related to disability.

Another promising practice of the NSA is that it acknowledged in a report on the 2018 LFS that an ‘important indicator in labour market analysis is the rate of vulnerable employment’.¹⁸ For the NSA, ‘[t]he main categories make up [the] ... vulnerable group, namely, own account workers, Subsistence/Communal farmers and contributing (unpaid) family workers’.¹⁹ It subsequently calculated a ‘rate of vulnerability’, which it understands to be ‘a measure of those with relatively precarious working situations’ and avers that ‘[t]hese three status groups are considered [to be] more vulnerable than others, because these people are unlikely to have formal work arrangements or access to benefits or social protection programmes, and [because] ... they are more at risk to the effect of the economic cycles’.²⁰ What remains a challenge, however, in addition to the infrequency with which the LFS is being carried out, is the fact that the LFS does not collect data that can be disaggregated by race, ethnicity and/or indigenous status. As such, it is not possible to examine the extent to which disparities in unemployment exist along these lines, which means that certain disadvantaged and marginalised groups may be invisible for purposes of analysing existing LFS unemployment data.

2.3 South Africa

In its concluding observations for South Africa (2018), the CESCR noted its concern at the ‘lack of disaggregated statistical data relating to the fulfilment of economic, social and cultural rights, particularly those of indigenous peoples, which makes it difficult to monitor the extent to which these rights are enjoyed in [South Africa]’.²¹ As such, the CESCR recommended that South Africa ‘improve its data-collection system with a view to collecting comprehensive and reliable data, disaggregated by race, gender, province and other relevant criteria, in order to enable the assessment of the level of enjoyment of rights covered by the Covenant, particularly among disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups, including indigenous peoples’.²²



To South Africa's credit, most of the data it collects as outlined above can to varying degrees be disaggregated by race, sex and province. It can also be disaggregated by a variety of other 'relevant criteria', including disability status, geography type (ordinarily distinguishing between 'urban formal', 'traditional' and 'farms') and age, among numerous others. That said, when survey participants are asked about their population group, they are ordinarily asked to classify themselves into a group that aligns with historical classifications stemming from the apartheid era, i.e. a person is given the option of indicating that they are from the 'African/Black', 'Coloured', 'Indian/Asian' and 'White', or, in various instances, an 'other' population group. It is also sometimes the case that the data as stored in the SuperWEB2 platform does not allow for disaggregation by 'other' population group, instead simply allowing for disaggregation by 'African/Black', 'Coloured', 'Indian/Asian' and 'White'. In instances where the platform does allow for disaggregation by 'other', it remains impossible, in the absence of individual survey responses, to tell to which 'other' population group persons identifying as such actually belong (e.g., whether they identify as Khoi San).

There are certainly logical reasons for collecting statistical data with reference to historical population group classifications. For example, given South Africa's colonial and apartheid past and the extent to which its population was systematically oppressed based on rigid racial hierarchies premised

on the idea that each person was either 'African/Black', 'Coloured', 'Indian/Asian' or 'White', the retention of these categories for statistical purposes could be viewed as necessary for making policy aimed squarely at addressing past discrimination and marginalisation so as to leave no one behind. That said, retaining these categories without providing meaningful opportunities for self-identification also poses risks. Chief among these, perhaps, is that it may render certain population groups, for example the Khoi San or members of a minority tribe, unaccounted for statistically. This, in turn, makes it difficult to assess to what extent these population groups are being left behind. As recognised in South Africa's [National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance](#),²³ discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin persists in South Africa. However, this form of discrimination cannot be monitored and addressed through current data practices. The National Action Plan accordingly envisages research in the form of a qualitative description of the ethnic composition of South Africa's population (in particular indigenous people and noncitizens), which will be an important first step to ensure that rights enjoyment by ethnic minorities can be monitored so as not to leave this group behind.





3. A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO DATA IN NAMIBIA, MAURITIUS AND SOUTH AFRICA

As part of the 2030 Agenda, States pledged to adhere to the idea of leaving no one behind. As already noted, this implies that there is a need for more systematic data disaggregation, as well as for the adoption of an intersectional approach to data, to help achieve and measure the SDGs. As such, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), having consulted with a broad array of relevant stakeholder, published '[A Human Rights-Based Approach to Data: Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)' ([Guidance Note](#)).²⁴ The Guidance Note constitutes a preliminary set of principles, recommendations and good practices intended to form part of an HRBAD. It structured these using the following six, mutually reinforcing principles: (i) participation; (ii) data disaggregation; (iii) self-identification; (iv) transparency; (v) privacy; and (vi) accountability. In this section of the advocacy brief, the extent to which Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa have each adopted an HRBAD reflecting these six principles is examined in the context of the ICESCR and the CESC.

A Human Rights-Based Approach to Data utilizes six mutually reinforcing principles of (i) participation; (ii) data disaggregation; (iii) self-identification; (iv) transparency; (v) privacy; and (vi) accountability.



3.1 Mauritius

Reporting to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

In its State report to the CESCR in 2017, Mauritius backed a number of its assertions in relation to ICESCR implementation with data.²⁵ For example, in respect of Article 3 of ICESCR on gender equality, it relied on data from the Electoral Commissioner's Office to illustrate the extent to which men and women were represented in elections and in political office.²⁶ In relation to Article 11 on the right to an adequate standard of living (and more specifically the right to water), moreover, it relied on SM's census data to illustrate the extent to which the Mauritian population had access to piped potable water.²⁷ Mauritius also relied on Ministry of Health and SM quality of life data to track child mortality rates, deaths due to non-communicable diseases and occupational health cases over time as part of its efforts to show implementation of Article 12 on the rights to the highest standard of physical and mental health.²⁸ In relation to the implementation of the right to education under Articles 13 and 14, it used SM education statistics as well as data from the Ministry of Education to show the extent to which the right was being realised by male and female students respectively, as well as, at least to some degree, the extent to which the right was being realised by students on the Island of Mauritius versus students on the Island of Rodrigues.²⁹

HRBAD principles as applied by Statistics Mauritius

SM engages in best practice in respect of the way much of the data Mauritius relied on when reporting to the CESCR was collected, and the way in which it is used already reflects a number of the principles of a HRBAD.

For example, SM, in collecting official data, encourages self-identification in its surveys to the extent possible where questions require participants to provide answers that relate to their identity. SM also collects data in ways which enable it to be disaggregated in a number of ways, including by sex, age and geography. Moreover, SM has various safeguards in place to ensure that confidentiality and the right to privacy of survey respondents are protected, including through anonymising microdata, having a system of offences in place for SM staff that inappropriately share confidential information and ensuring that data collected is stored on secure servers. SM also publishes large amounts of the data it collects on its website, thus to a degree giving effect to the principle of transparency. That said, there is room for improvement in a number of areas. For example, SM does not publish all the data it collects publicly. More specifically, it does not publish large portions of data at a level of detail which enables users to disaggregate the data to the fullest extent possible. Full datasets can be requested from SM for research purposes, but the reason the data is being sought must be stated and, as noted above, access is made conditional on paying a fee. There is also scope for improving on the extent to which SM practices reflect the principle of participation in the sense that it is not currently taking full advantage of the potential benefits of acting in partnership with the NHRI and CSOs to the fullest extent possible. This is in part due to the fact that SM staff are not typically aware of the extent to which their work can facilitate reporting, monitoring and implementation in relation to human rights instruments such as the ICESCR. As noted above, there is also scope for greater data disaggregation going forward, including on the bases of gender (in addition to sex) and ethnicity (which will require law reform).

3.2 Namibia

Reporting to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

In its State report to the CESCR in 2014, Namibia relies on data in many of its discussions on implementation of the ICESCR, albeit that it does not always state where the data it relies on originates.³⁰ For example, in a discussion on its affirmative action practices, it is explained that ‘[u]nder the existing economy, 5% of the population controls 70% of the country’s gross domestic product’ and that ‘11.2% of the total population which is of European origin earns 51.5% of the total annual income’.³¹ Similarly, in its discussion on Article 3 on gender equality, Namibia explains that its first two local government elections resulted in local councils ‘that were 32% female after the first local elections in 1994, rising to 41% after the second local elections in 1998’.³² Moreover, Namibia relied on NHIES and other survey data discussed above in order to show the extent to which a number of rights had been realised, including in relation to Article 6 on unemployment,³³ which it also discussed from youth,³⁴ gender,³⁵ and regional perspectives, among others.³⁶ The NHIES was also relied on to show to what extent people had access to drinking water.³⁷

HRBAD principles as applied by the Namibia Statistics Agency

As in the case of SM, the NSA’s practices already reflect a number of the principles of a HRBAD. The NSA collects significant amounts of data in ways which enable it to be disaggregated, including by sex, age, disability status and geography. It also has various safeguards in place to ensure that confidentiality and the right to privacy of survey respondents are protected. In accordance with the principle of transparency, moreover, the NSA does publish much of what data it collects on its website. As in the case of SM, the extent to which the NSA’s practices reflect the principle of participation can be improved by collaborating with the NHRI (the Office of the Ombud) and CSOs to a greater extent, which may in turn require greater awareness from NSA staff on how data collection and human rights can, and should, go hand in hand.

Another challenge the NSA faces is that of keeping its data current. In the absence of relatively up-to-date data, it is difficult if not impossible to assess to what extent CESCR implementation has evolved since the last time data was collected. As already alluded to, the CESCR has recommended that the NSA conduct the LFS as frequently as possible, but the last iteration was conducted in 2018. Other datasets such as the NHIES also lag significantly. It has been conducted on only four occasions since 1993, with the latest NHIES data available being from 2015/16. One of the main reasons for this is current levels of resource allocation. Furthermore, there is scope for greater data disaggregation, including on the basis of gender in addition to sex.

3.3 South Africa

Reporting to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

In its State report to the CESCR in 2017, South Africa rooted a significant portion of its discussion on ICESCR implementation in data.³⁸ For example, under the heading of ‘[t]he economic legacy of apartheid’, the report relied on a number of sources discussed above to illustrate the extent of economic inequality in contemporary South Africa, both within and across different population groups.³⁹ In this discussion, statistics are broken down by gender, race and socio-economic status.⁴⁰ Similar analyses are undertaken elsewhere, including, for example, in relation to the right to education, where certain data is disaggregated by gender and race to illustrate the extent to which the right is being realised by different groups of people,⁴¹ as well as in relation to the right to work, where unemployment figures are shown by education level.⁴² In addition to these and a number of similar instances, South Africa provided full disaggregated datasets as annexures to its State report. Specifically, Annexure B contained ‘[f]ull disaggregated statistical data’ from StatsSA’s Community Survey of 2016,⁴³ whereas Annexure C contained ‘[f]ull disaggregated labour data’.⁴⁴

The SAHRC, in one of its NHRI report contributions to the CESC, discussed a number of points made by South Africa during the process of the initial report.⁴⁵ For example, the SAHRC noted that South Africa's 'use of apartheid-era racial classification for purposes of Employment Equity and Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment legislation and policies[] fails to take into account inequalities within crassly defined population groups', and added that '[t]he current system of data disaggregation and classification therefore fails to respond to vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities or the Khoi-San people'.⁴⁶ For this reason, among others, the SAHRC 'recommended that Government collaborates with [StatsSA] to gather data disaggregated by ethnic origin, language, and disability, and that includes social and economic indicators'.⁴⁷ Among other things, the SAHRC examined South Africa's assertions in relation to economic distributions.⁴⁸ In response to an assertion that StatsSA 'does not publish the income share of the top 10% richest households', the SAHRC pointed to other datasets that were constructed by academic institutions using anonymised income tax data to illustrate that reliable data on this topic was in fact available. While these datasets may not be regarded as 'official' by StatsSA, it is apparent that StatsSA was involved in their production and has in fact relied on those datasets in one of its own reports.⁴⁹

In 2021, South Africa submitted a follow-up report to CESC on progress in respect of four urgent recommendations, including the recommendation to "develop and regularly update a 'composite index on the cost of living', which is a benchmark used by governments to assess what social security measures are needed for every person to have an adequate standard of living". CSOs and the SAHRC pointed out that government's reliance on the Consumer Price Index was insufficient to measure an adequate standard of living,⁵⁰ and CESC ultimately assessed South Africa's progress as "insufficient" on this and the other three priority recommendations.⁵¹

HRBAD principles as applied by StatsSA

StatsSA also implements the principles of a HRBAD, as captured in the Guidance Note, in a number of ways. In addition to encouraging self-identification in its surveys, collecting a variety of data in ways which enable it to be disaggregated by sex, age, race, disability and geography, among others, and safeguarding confidentiality and the right to privacy of survey respondents, StatsSA is particularly good at making what data it has collected – and it has collected an extensive amount of data – available to members of the public, thus ensuring a significant degree of transparency, at least to the extent that essentially anyone can gain access to the SuperWEB2 platform and see for themselves what data is available, access it, and use it for whatever analysis they wish to conduct. This kind of transparency in turn means that the SAHRC, CSOs and any other relevant persons or institutions have a lot of data to work with to enable them to, at least in principle, hold the State to account insofar as its obligations under the ICESCR, among other human rights instruments, are concerned.

As in the case of SM and the NSA, however, there is scope for StatsSA to improve on its current approach to data. One way in which it could ostensibly do this is through ensuring that its data can be disaggregated by a greater number of factors deemed relevant by virtue of participative processes, for example through meaningful engagement with the SAHRC and CSOs. Given that StatsSA also has statutorily mandated co-ordination functions in relation to data collected by organs of state, it can also go quite some way further to improving transparency by, for example, gaining access to datasets collected by other government actors and making them available via SuperWEB2.





4. LEVERAGING EXISTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Although in some instances there is no alternative to bridging existing data gaps – for example by collecting data on race, ethnicity or indigenous status where such data is completely lacking – in this final section, the advocacy brief makes recommendations on how *existing* socio-economic data can be better leveraged to give effect to the LNOB principle. It does so on a stakeholder-by-stakeholder basis. That said, the recommendations made in the advocacy brief should also, where appropriate, apply with a view to bridging existing data gaps. It should be pointed out that there are other relevant stakeholders that should be borne in mind in this context other than those discussed here. These include data collecting departments and agencies in governments other than NSOs, academic institutions, private sector firms and individual citizens, among potential others.

4.1 National Statistical Offices

Leverage the SDGs/ESCR interface

NSOs can gain a lot by reusing data collected for monitoring SDGs to also monitor ICESCR implementation. For example, data that has already been collected for purposes of monitoring the attainment of SDG 1 – which is to end poverty in all its forms everywhere – can equally be relied on to monitor implementation of certain obligations contained in the ICESCR. Targets under SDG 1 include eradicating extreme poverty, implementing social protection measures and ensuring equal access of men and women to economic resources. The data collected for purposes of these targets can, in turn, be leveraged to monitor compliance with the right to an adequate standard of living (Article 11 of the ICESCR), the right to social security

(Article 9 of the ICESCR) and the obligation to ensure that the rights enunciated in the ICESCR will be exercised without discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of sex (Article 2(2) of the ICESCR). Similarly, data collected for purposes of tracking SDG 3, which entails ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, can also be used to examine to what extent States are giving effect to the right to health (Article 12 of the ICESCR), affording special protection to mothers and children (Article 10) and the right of all to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application (Article 15(1)(b)).

Partnerships with National Human Rights Institutions, civil society organizations and other actors

Another way that NSOs can approach getting more out of the existing socio-economic data landscape is through forming closer partnerships with actors such as NHRIs, CSOs or even private sector actors that already collect or plan to collect data which may assist NSOs to improve their current iterations of an HRBAD. Leveraging synergies of this kind can also lead to cost reductions, improved data coverage and granularity and, assuming that the NSO in question works with NHRIs, CSOs or other actors that implement an effective HRBAD, to obtaining and using data which these actors are better placed to collect. For example, as the Guidance Note suggests, CSOs and private sector operators may be in a better position than NSOs to reach certain population groups,⁵⁴ which suggests that cooperating with such CSOs will not only save costs but also improve the extent to which the NSO is able to implement an HRBAD.

Additionally, NSOs should use their partnerships with NHRIs, CSOs and other relevant actors to help bridge disciplinary gaps to the extent that they exist. Traditionally, and to a large degree this continues today, the disciplines of statistics and human rights have barely overlapped. University degrees and programmes in statistics, mathematics and data

science have a propensity to be focused on technical skills, and human rights issues rarely, if ever, arise. Given the disciplinary focus of NHRIs and many CSOs, they will often be better placed to identify who is at risk of being left behind and advising on adoption of an HRBAD. CSOs are also able to advise NSOs on various rights-related issues, including the need to ensure that official data is accessible to people with disabilities, or the requirement for further disaggregation to ensure that marginalised groups are rendered visible through data collection practices and not obscured by aggregates. Innovative partnerships can thus provide helpful insights to NSOs, especially those who lack dedicated human rights-oriented resources.

Accessibility of data for people with disabilities

All NSOs should take particular care to ensure that data is not only publicly accessible, but also accessible to people with disabilities. Whereas observance of the HRBAD principle of participation will likely reveal the need for accessible data for people with disabilities, guaranteeing accessibility will further bolster the principles of transparency and allow for meaningful participation by people with disabilities who would otherwise be at risk of being left behind.

4.2 National Human Rights Institutions

In the short term, NHRIs should also work to build closer partnerships. A good example in this regard comes from Kenya, where, in 2017, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC). The MoU laid the groundwork for improved cooperation between the KNBS and KHRC, which ultimately led to significant steps forward in relation to viewing data from a LNOB lens. This has resulted in groups at risk of being left behind – e.g. persons with disabilities, refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and intersex people – being rendered more explicitly visible in the data collected via the 2019 census and other surveys.

In the shorter term, these sorts of partnerships can also be relied on to bridge any disciplinary gaps that may exist within NHRIs. Whereas NHRIs may well be able to help NSOs when it comes to improving their HRBAD, NSOs may in turn be able to assist NHRIs with statistical expertise where such expertise is lacking. This, in turn, should assist NHRIs in getting the most out of analysing socio-economic data already being collected by NSOs and other actors, which analysis should also be fed by NHRIs back to the CESCRC with a view to assisting it in performing its monitoring functions.

4.3 Civil Society Organisations

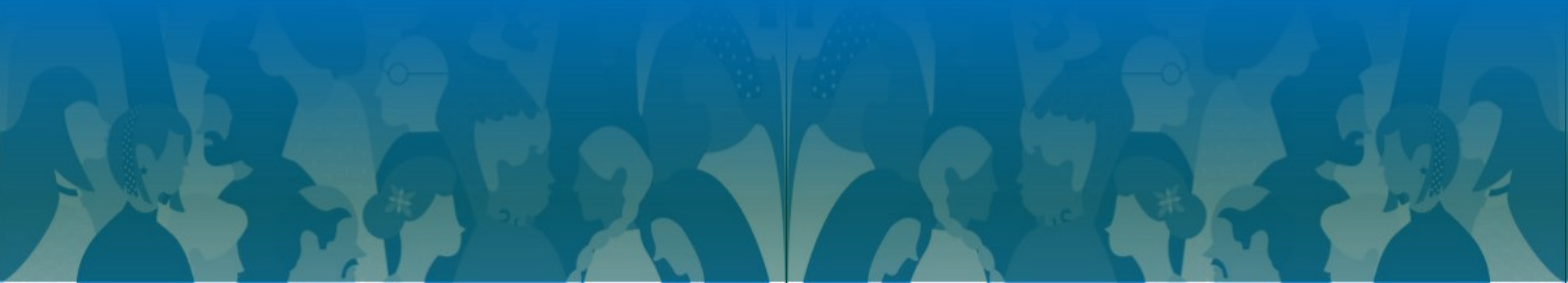
Like NSOs and NHRIs, CSOs should look to build partnerships which can help take advantage of existing data in various CSOs' areas of expertise. For example, OpenUp, a South Africa based civic technology CSO, has, in partnership with various actors, including StatsSA and the Electoral Commission of South Africa, applied its technological expertise to develop an array of tools which are geared at making official (and other) data more accessible. An example of such a tool is Wazimap,⁵⁵ which is an online tool that was originally built to make it easier for media organisations to find and visualise census and elections data. Tweaked versions of Wazimap have subsequently been developed for specific purposes. For example, YouthExplorer is an

instance of Wazimap that has been developed with a view to making data pertinent to young people – including all the data from the original Wazimap, but also additional data from the South African Police Service, as well as provincial education and health departments – more accessible.⁵⁶ Wazimap was also used to build an elections dashboard for the South African National Editors Forum to assist journalists to use data collected by StatsSA and other actors to report on the 2021 local government elections in South Africa.⁵⁷ These sorts of partnerships and the results they yield can then in turn be leveraged for advocacy purposes and for holding duty-bearers accountable for their human rights obligations, including by submitting reports to the CESC.

4.4 National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up

Partnership-building of the kind envisioned above is facilitated and strengthened by central co-ordinating bodies. To facilitate cooperative work in relation to the ICESCR and CESC recommendations, this advocacy brief recommends making maximum use of institutional actors that have the capacity to serve a central co-ordinating role. For example, Mauritius has established a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF), which is an inter-ministerial body tasked with engaging with, as well as drafting reports and following-up on, recommendations adopted by, among others, UN treaty bodies such as the CESC. Namibia established an NMRF in 2002 (formally approved by Cabinet in 2019), whereas South Africa continues to work towards strengthening and institutionalising its NMRF.⁵⁸ The objective of establishing NMRFs is to institutionalise current inter-ministerial coordination structures or processes around an HRBAD, moving away from ad hoc to sustainable arrangements which, among other things, facilitate implementation of CESC recommendations by States. Once properly institutionalised, NMRFs should possess engagement capacity; coordination capacity; consultation capacity; and information management capacity. Whereas all NMRF capacities are crucial to ensure a HRBAD, the coordination capacity is especially relevant for purposes of leveraging socio-economic data to leave no one behind.

An NMRF's coordination capacity refers to the authority to disseminate information, and to organise and coordinate information gathering and data collection from government entities and other State actors such as the NSOs, the SDG implementation focal point agency or national planning commission, parliament and the judiciary, for reporting and follow-up to human rights recommendations. An NMRF's coordination capacity also increases the ability of stakeholders to identify intersecting forms of disadvantage and discrimination, and to address related challenges that put people further at risk of being left behind. Given their mandates and proximity to communities, NHRIs and many CSOs, they will often be better placed to identify who is at risk of being left behind. These concerns could be channelled through the NMRF, and fed back to NSOs with a view to them paying greater attention to these groups and individuals and taking appropriate action. This is especially so where NHRIs enjoy an explicit ESCR mandate and are thus empowered to engage in this kind of process in relation to the ICESCR and CESC recommendations.⁵⁹



4.5 National Planning Commissions

National planning commissions (**NPCs**) are advisory bodies that assist governments in devising long term plans and policies, usually from an economic development perspective. NPCs also play a co-ordination role and are sites for collaboration among a variety of governmental and non-governmental actors, including NSOs, NHRIs and CSOs, among others, such as private sector actors and academia. NPC processes are informed by large amounts of socio-economic data, including data collected for purposes of the SDGs, which make them another existing institutional setting that can be leveraged to give effect to an HRBAD. Specifically, partnerships built within, and data

collected for, NPCs can be transferred to NMRFs with relative ease and without expending much by way of resources, which can in turn assist NMRFs a great deal with reporting to bodies such as the CESC and monitoring progress made in respect of the implementation of recommendations emanating from the human rights mechanisms. Cooperation between NMRFs and NPCs should, of course, run both ways – NMRFs should look to provide feedback and stimulate dialogue with a view to instilling an HRBAD (including a gender-sensitive approach) within NPCs and ensuring that no one is left behind.

4.6 The United Nations and other international organisations

The United Nations and other international organisations have several important roles to play in facilitating an improved HRBAD in member states. In the short term, these include advocating for HRBAD uptake and mainstreaming of gender and the LNOB principle, but also ensuring that these approaches and principles can be applied

practically, for example by providing technical support to actors throughout socio-economic data ecosystems and engaging in capacity building activities that are specifically geared at using the large amounts of socio-economic data already available in ways which help to ensure that no one is left behind.

Cooperation between National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) and national planning commissions (NPCs) should, of course, run both ways – NMRFs should look to provide feedback and stimulate dialogue with a view to instilling an HRBAD (including a gender-sensitive approach) within NPCs and ensuring that no one is left behind.

ENDNOTES

1. United Nations Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Guidance Note on Intersectionality, Racial Discrimination & Protection of Minorities (2022), p 33, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/minorities/30th-anniversary/2022-09-22/GuidanceNoteonIntersectionality.pdf>.
2. Of the 14 countries in the Southern Africa sub-region, 11 countries, namely Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, have ratified the ICESCR. Comoros has signed the ICESCR, but is still in the process of ratifying it. Botswana and Mozambique have yet to sign the ICESCR. Of the 11 countries in Southern Africa that have ratified the ICESCR, only Angola, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa have submitted at least the initial report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) since ratification and have submitted at least one (initial or periodic) report since 2014, and are thereby considered to be ‘actively reporting’. It should be noted that due to language limitations, Angola does not form part of this study. Moreover, it should be noted that Malawi and Zimbabwe submitted overdue reports to CESCR in late 2022, and therefore also fall outside the parameters of the present study.
3. At the time of writing, an interview with StatsSA had unfortunately not been secured.
4. While the survey does capture information for ‘Non-Mauritians’, certain more detailed information, including for example on occupation, need only be provided in relation to Mauritian workers.
5. The Mauritius Human Rights Commission, the relevant NHRI in Mauritius, does not have a mandate on economic, social and cultural rights. As such, it does not generate administrative data on the basis of complaints that address economic, social and cultural rights.
6. See <https://nsa.org.na/page/central-data-catalogue>
7. See <https://nsa.org.na/page/central-data-catalogue>.
8. See <https://superweb.statssa.gov.za/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml>.
9. CESCR, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Mauritius, E/C.12/MUS/CO/5 (2019).
10. CESCR, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Mauritius, E/C.12/MUS/CO/5 (2019), para 21.
11. CESCR, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Mauritius, E/C.12/MUS/CO/5 (2019), para 21.
12. CESCR, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Mauritius, E/C.12/MUS/CO/5 (2019), para 22.
13. CESCR, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Mauritius, E/C.12/MUS/CO/5 (2019), para 22.
14. See https://statsmauritius.govmu.org/Pages/Statistics/By_Subject/Rodrigues/SB_Rodrigues.aspx.
15. It may be possible to use proxies, of a linguistic or geographical nature for example, in order to reach ethnicity estimates. However, as the HRBAD Guidance Note suggests, when using proxies for ethnicity ‘data collectors should ensure that their handling and publishing of that data does not imply self-identification where disclosure of personal information relating to ethnic identity has not occurred’ and data ‘should be accurately described to make clear that the parameters established for a particular group have been set according to place of residence, in this example, and not the self-identification of group members’. See note 24 below, p 13.
16. CESCR; Concluding observations on the initial report of Namibia, E/C.12/NAM/CO/1 (2016), para 29.
17. CESCR; Concluding observations on the initial report of Namibia, E/C.12/NAM/CO/1 (2016), para 30.
18. NSA, The Namibia Labour Force Survey 2018 Report (March 2019) 55.
19. NSA, The Namibia Labour Force Survey 2018 Report (March 2019) 55.
20. NSA, The Namibia Labour Force Survey 2018 Report (March 2019) 55.
21. CESCR, Concluding observations on the initial report of South Africa, E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1 (2018), para 10.
22. CESCR, Concluding observations on the initial report of South Africa, E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1 (2018), para 11.
23. See https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201903/national-action-plan.pdf.
24. See <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf>.
25. See generally CESCR, Fifth periodic report of Mauritius to CESCR, E/C.12/MUS/5 (2017).
26. See CESCR, Fifth periodic report of Mauritius to CESCR, E/C.12/MUS/5 (2017), pp 6-7.
27. See CESCR, Fifth periodic report of Mauritius to CESCR, E/C.12/MUS/5 (2017), pp 22-3.

ENDNOTES *continued*

28. See CESCR, Fifth periodic report of Mauritius to CESCR, E/C.12/MUS/5 (2017), pp 25-7.
29. See CESCR, Fifth periodic report of Mauritius to CESCR, E/C.12/MUS/5 (2017), pp 30-40.
30. See CESCR, Initial periodic report of Namibia to CESCR, E/C.12/NAM/1 (2014).
31. See CESCR, Initial periodic report of Namibia to CESCR, E/C.12/NAM/1 (2014), p 10.
32. See CESCR, Initial periodic report of Namibia to CESCR, E/C.12/NAM/1 (2014), p 20.
33. See generally CESCR, Initial periodic report of Namibia to CESCR, E/C.12/NAM/1 (2014), paras 139-44.
34. See CESCR, Initial periodic report of Namibia to CESCR, E/C.12/NAM/1 (2014), paras 145-6.
35. See CESCR, Initial periodic report of Namibia to CESCR, E/C.12/NAM/1 (2014), paras 147-9.
36. See CESCR, Initial periodic report of Namibia to CESCR, E/C.12/NAM/1 (2014), paras 150-3.
37. See CESCR, Initial periodic report of Namibia to CESCR, E/C.12/NAM/1 (2014), paras 282-3.
38. See CESCR, Initial periodic report of South Africa to CESCR, E/C.12/ZAF/1 (2017).
39. See CESCR, Initial report of South Africa to CESCR, E/C.12/ZAF/1 (2017), paras 12-6.
40. See CESCR, Initial report of South Africa to CESCR, E/C.12/ZAF/1 (2017), paras 12-6.
41. See, for example, CESCR, Initial report of South Africa to CESCR, E/C.12/ZAF/1 (2017), para 157.
42. See CESCR, Initial report of South Africa to CESCR, E/C.12/ZAF/1 (2017), para 68.
43. See CESCR, Initial report of South Africa to CESCR, E/C.12/ZAF/1 (2017), para 16.
44. See CESCR, Initial report of South Africa to CESCR, E/C.12/ZAF/1 (2017), para 71.
45. SAHRC, National Human Rights Institution Report regarding the South African Government's Reply to the List of Issues (2018), https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCESCR%2FNHS%2FZAF%2F32471&Lang=en.
46. SAHRC, National Human Rights Institution Report regarding the South African Government's Reply to the List of Issues (2018), para 6.
47. SAHRC, National Human Rights Institution Report regarding the South African Government's Reply to the List of Issues (2018), para 10.
48. See SAHRC, National Human Rights Institution Report regarding the South African Government's Reply to the List of Issues (2018), para 11.
49. See SAHRC, National Human Rights Institution Report regarding the South African Government's Reply to the List of Issues (2018), para 11 and the sources cited therein. See further regarding Stats SA's reliance on these data sets: Stats SA, Inequality Trends in South Africa: A Multidimensional Diagnostic of Inequality (2019) <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-03-10-19/Report-03-10-192017.pdf>
50. See <https://spii.org.za/the-daily-maverick-south-africas-lack-of-progress-on-socioeconomic-and-cultural-issues/>.
51. See https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/FollowUp.aspx?Treaty=CESCR&Lang=en for all follow-up submissions and the CESCR's follow-up assessment.
52. That said, the recommendations made in the advocacy brief should also, where appropriate, apply with a view to bridging existing data gaps.
53. It should be pointed out that there are other relevant stakeholders that should be borne in mind in this context other than those discussed here. These include data collecting departments and agencies in governments other than NSOs, academic institutions, private sector firms and individual citizens, among potential others.
54. See note 24 above, pp 3-6.
55. See <https://wazimap.co.za/>.
56. See <https://www.youthexplorer.org.za/>.
57. See <https://local-gov.sanef.org.za/>.
58. See <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/final-report-on-status-of-nmrf-in-southern-africa.pdf>.
59. The SAHRC has an explicit ESCR mandate. This is not the case in Mauritius and in Namibia, where the respective NHRIs do not have explicit ESCR mandates but are still informed by their work on civil and political rights in view of indivisibility, interrelatedness and interdependence of human rights.



As a “common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations”, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a global blueprint for international, national, and local laws and policies and a bedrock of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The UDHR fosters a sense of common humanity (equality) beyond individual differences and has given rise to national, regional and international laws and institutions to help realize all rights: economic, social, cultural, civil and political.

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development explicitly recognizes it is grounded in the UDHR and has to be implemented in a manner that realizes human rights.

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Published during the 75th Anniversary of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights



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