Acknowledgment

This database software has been developed by the ZIMSTAT. The product has been adapted from UNICEF ChildInfo technology. UNICEF owns and maintains the source code for DevInfo.

Introduction

ZIMDAT is a programme of support to Zimbabwe that focuses on promoting the use of national statistics in evidence-based policy and planning dialogues at the global, regional and national levels. At its core, ZIMDAT programming is based around a database system that provides a method to organize, store and display data in a uniform format to facilitate data access at the country level among government institutions, their development partners and the general public.

ZIMDAT has been adapted from UNICEF ChildInfo database technology. It is an integrated desktop and web-enabled tool that assists countries in their reporting on the SDGs and other national and international development targets. It has user-friendly features that can be used to create tables, graphs, maps and other visual outputs for inclusion in reports, presentations and other advocacy or planning materials. The software supports standard indicators, and can also be customized to fit the requirements of local indicator and monitoring frameworks at the regional or country levels.

Data visualization

All new visualization tools make it easier to interactively explore the data. The list of visualization objects includes tables, line charts, bar charts, pie charts, column charts, stacked bar charts, scatter plots, maps, pyramid charts, radar charts and tree maps.

Gallery

Save your visualization outputs to a personalized online gallery for future use or a common one for public access. Share your outputs with others via social media, email and embedded web pages.

Accessing ZIMDAT

ZIMDAT is a web application hosted on a web server. The application can be accessed at www.zimstat.co.zw/zimdat

Searching for data

ZIMDAT offers fast open access to data on human development.

Using Quick Data Search

The **Quick Data Search** feature allows you to find what you are looking for almost instantly.

Entering keywords

In the **Quick Data Search** boxes, enter the desired indicator keyword(s) in the **What?** box and/or the desired area name(s) (provinces and districts) in the **Where?** box.

The auto-suggest feature will automatically suggest indicators, sectors, goals and area names in the database, making your search quicker and easier. Note that the contents of the auto-suggest entries are configured by the database administrator.

Click after you have entered one or more keywords. The application quickly returns the search results.

Viewing your search results

Depending on the keywords you entered and the contents of the database, your search results may consist of one or multiple entries. The first line of each search result entry always displays the area name, indicator and unit; it may also display the data value for most recent time period. Note that the number of data values posted below each entry includes all available subgroups.

If the selected area contains sub-areas with data posted against them, click either the sign or the sub-area name to view data for these areas.

Visualizing your search results

Click **Visualize** to visualize your search results in table, graph, chart and map formats. Note that depending on your search results, you can visualize data either for the main area selected or for the individual sub-areas.

Browsing for data by topic or area

You can also browse the database by topic or area while searching for data. Click to search the database by sector, goal, theme or indicator. By default, the application lets you search for indicators by sector. Click the small black arrow next to Sector to search by other indicator classifications.

Click List Alphabetically to view the list of indicators in alphabetical order. Type keywords in the search box to expedite your indicator search. Select the Show where data exist check box to display only those indicators for which data exist. When you are done with your selection(s), click OK to view your search results.

Note that as no areas are selected, the application will search for data across all areas in the database.

Similarly, click to search the database by geographic area (province, district, etc.) across all indicators. Note that you can search for areas by area tree or by alphabetical listing.

Using the Advanced Search feature

The **Advanced Search** feature allows you to select both indicators and areas at the same time.

Click the **Advanced Search** button to open a window allowing you to specify your indicator and area selections.

You can select the **Show where data exist** check box, to avoid selecting areas for which data are not available for the selected indicator(s).
Alternatively, you can leave this check box unselected to generate a map visualization showing data for a complete geographic region even if data is not available for some of the sub-areas.
When done, click **Submit** to go directly to the visualization page.

Visualizing data

Once you have searched for the data you want, you can use ZIMDAT to visualize your data in many exciting ways.

Viewing different visualizations

Click **Visualize** from your search results or click **Submit** from the **Advanced Search** to begin visualizing your data.
Note that there are two tabs at the top of the visualization page: **Visualization** and **Settings.**

The **Visualization** tab allows you to select from 11 different types of visualizations (table, line graph, column graph, area graph, pie graph, map, pyramid chart, treemap, radar chart, and scatterplot).
Click any of the visualization icons to view your data in a new visualization.
For **Line**, **Column**, **Bar**, **Area** and **Map**, click the small black arrow to select from additional display formats.
Click the **Data** tab below the visualization to view the underlying data.
Similarly, click the **Source** tab to view the data source.

Downloading your visualization

- To download your current customized visualization, click from the upper right of the screen.
- ZIMDAT allows you to download your visualization as an image, XLS file or KML file.

- Image files can be downloaded as static PNG, JPEG and/or GIF files for convenient inclusion in external documents or presentations.
- Downloaded XLS files allow you to share the visualization in XLS format along with the underlying data.
- Downloaded KML files contain stored geographic data that can be used for subsequent geo-referenced display in Google Earth and Google Maps.