![fhi360 — THE SCIENCE OF IMPROVING LIVES]

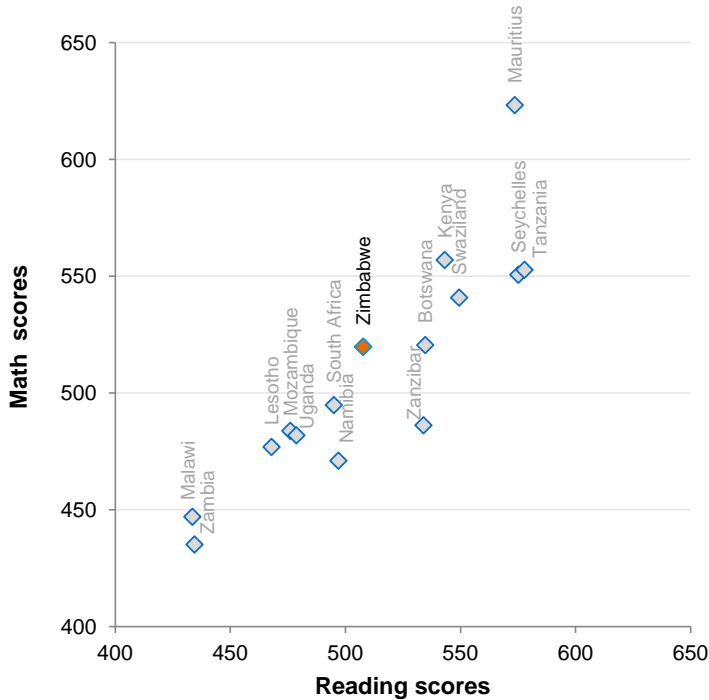**EDUCATION POLICY AND DATA CENTER**
Making sense of data to improve education.
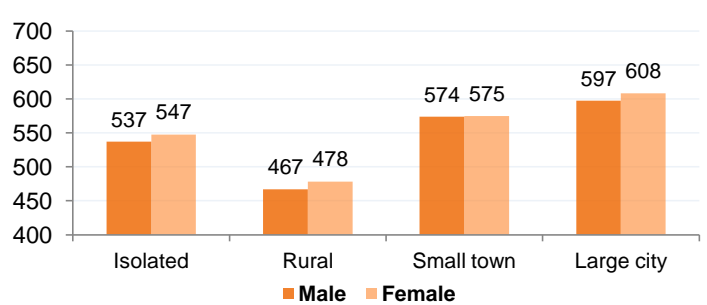
LEARNING ACHIEVEMENT IN READING AND MATH, SACMEQ 2007 **Zimbabwe**

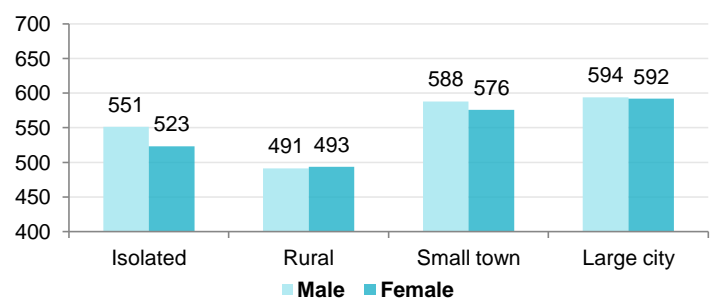## National performance on reading and math assessments*

Scatter plot of Math scores vs Reading scores. Countries labeled: Malawi, Zambia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Uganda, South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zanzibar, Botswana, Kenya, Swaziland, Seychelles, Tanzania, Mauritius.

Data Source: SACMEQ III, 6th grade assessments, 2007

Zimbabwe
Average reading scores by community type and sex*

	Isolated	Rural	Small town	Large city
Male	537	467	574	597
Female	547	478	575	608

Data Source: SACMEQ III, 6th grade assessments, 2007

Zimbabwe
Average math scores by community type and sex*

|	Isolated	Rural	Small town	Large city
Male	551	491	588	594
Female	523	493	576	592

Data Source: SACMEQ III, 6th grade assessments, 2007

Zimbabwe
Performance on the reading assessment by region

Data Source: SACMEQ III, 6th grade assessments, 2007

Levels** 1-3   Levels 4-6   Levels 7-8
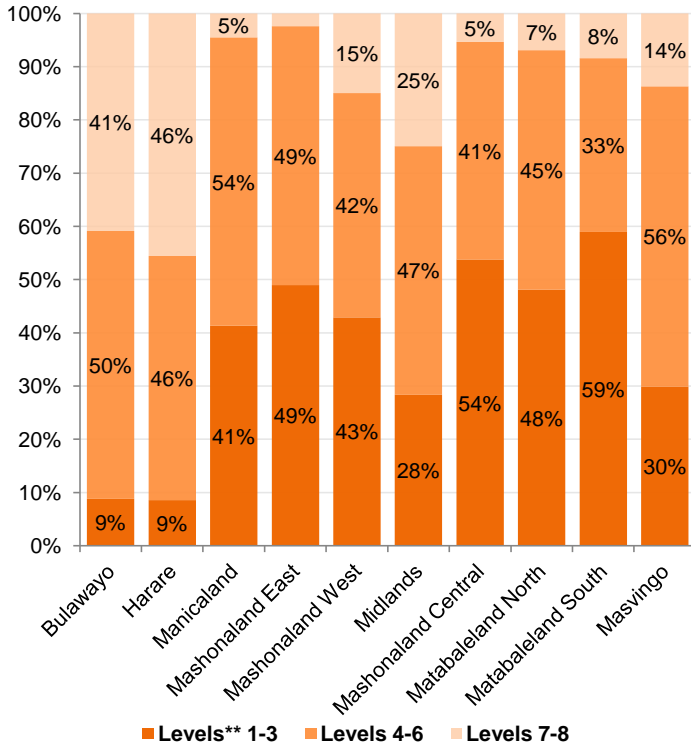
Zimbabwe
Performance on the math assessment by region

Data Source: SACMEQ III, 6th grade assessments, 2007

Levels** 1-3   Levels 4-6   Levels 7-8
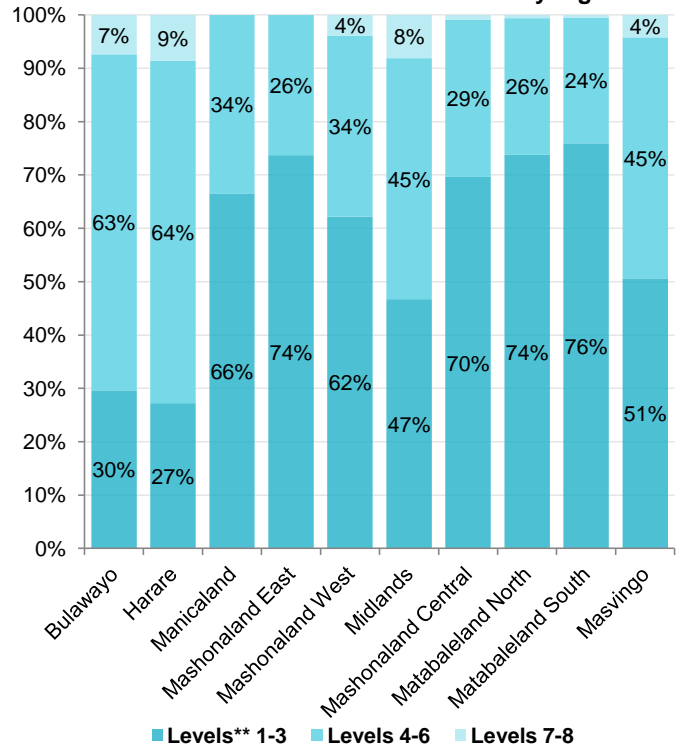
*Similar to assessments like TIMSS, PIRLS, and PISA, SACMEQ scores have a mean of 500 and a standard deviation of pupil scores of 100. The minimum scores on the assessments are around 190 points and the maximum scores are around 900 points.

** Descriptions of SACMEQ reading and math performance levels are available below.

Data for this profile comes from the third Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring and Educational Quality (SACMEQ) study conducted in 2007. The study measured reading and math performance at the sixth grade level in Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zanzibar, and Zimbabwe. More information about SACMEQ is available at www.sacmeq.org.

SACMEQ Reading Performance Levels †

Level 1	**Pre Reading**	Matches words and pictures involving concrete concepts and everyday objects; follows short simple written instructions.
Level 2	**Emergent Reading**	Matches words and pictures involving prepositions and abstract concepts; uses cuing systems to interpret phrases by reading on.
Level 3	**Basic Reading**	Interprets meaning in a short and simple text.
Level 4	**Reading for Meaning**	Reads in order to link and interpret information located in various parts of the text.
Level 5	**Interpretive Reading**	Reads in order to combine and interpret information from various parts of the text in association with external information that contextualizes meaning.
Level 6	**Inferential Reading**	Reads through longer texts in order to combine information so as to infer the writer's purpose.
Level 7	**Analytical Reading**	Locates information in longer texts in order to combine information from various parts of the text so as to infer the writer's personal beliefs
Level 8	**Critical Reading**	Locates information in longer texts in order to combine information from various parts of the text so as to infer and evaluate what the writer has assumed about both the topic and the characteristics of the reader.

SACMEQ Math Performance Levels †

Level 1	**Pre Numeracy**	Applies single step addition or subtraction operations. Recognizes simple shapes. Matches numbers and pictures. Counts in whole numbers.
Level 2	**Emergent Numeracy**	Applies a two-step addition or subtraction operation. Estimates the length of familiar objects. Recognizes common two-dimensional shapes.
Level 3	**Basic Numeracy**	Translates verbal information using one arithmetic operation. Translates graphical information into fractions. Interprets place value of whole numbers up to thousands. Interprets simple common everyday units of measurement.
Level 4	**Beginning Numeracy**	Translates verbal or graphic information into simple arithmetic problems. Uses multiple different arithmetic operations on whole numbers, fractions, and/or decimals.
Level 5	**Competent Numeracy**	Translates verbal; graphic; or tabular information into an arithmetic form to solve a given problem. Solves multiple-operation problems. Converts basic measurement units.
Level 6	**Mathematically Skilled**	Solves multiple-operation problems involving fractions, ratios, and decimals. Translates verbal and graphic information into symbolic, algebraic, and equation form to solve a given mathematical problem. Checks and estimates answers using external knowledge.
Level 7	**Concrete Problem Solving**	Extracts and converts information from tables, charts, visual and symbolic presentations in order to identify and then solve multi-step problems.
Level 8	**Abstract Problem Solving**	Identifies the nature of an unstated mathematical problem embedded within verbal or graphic information and then translates this into symbolic, algebraic, or equation form to solve the problem.

† *Descriptions of performance levels are abbreviated; for complete descriptions, please visit the SACMEQ website at www.sacmeq.org.*

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