



## Overview on data, measurement and indicators

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### Why indicators?

- Environmental, economic, and social indicators are used world-wide to report on the condition of human and natural systems.
- Indicators vary depending on what is being measured and on the intended reporting audience.

## What makes an effective indicator?

- Effective indicators are:
  - Relevant; they show us something about the system that we need to know or which is important
  - Easy to understand, even by people who are not experts
  - Effective indicators are reliable; we can trust the information that the indicator is providing
  - Based on accessible data; the information is available or can be gathered while there is still time to act

3

## Terminology

- “**Information**” refers to any form of knowledge conveyed in written or oral form
- “**Records**” refers to information regarding cases and detainees routinely recorded by institutions of the criminal justice system
  - Case folders, Registers, Court records, Written judgments
- “**Data**” refers to information *systematically* collected from official or other records or other information sources
  - Interview data, Sample data, Survey data

4

## Statistics, research and indicators

- “Statistics” are the measures such as mean, median, etc. emerging out of analysis of a dataset
- “Research” refers to the process of collecting and analysing data in order to measure matters of interest
- “Indicators” are measures derived from research data measured over time to monitor change
- Indicators are specifically designed to measure specific matters of interest over time or across geographical areas to measure change or impact

5

## Single measure indicators

- Single measure indicators
  - E.g. unemployment rate
    - Usually expressed as a percentage of economically active population (EAP)
    - Percent means per 100.
    - To calculate, the number of unemployed is divided by the EAP and multiplied by 100
  - E.g. homicide rate
    - Usually expressed as incidence per 100 000 population
    - To calculate, the number of homicides is divided by the population and multiplied by 100 000.

6

## Composite Indicators

- **Composite indicators**
  - Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite indicator
  - Single number which measures social and economic development.
  - A minimum and a maximum for each dimension, called goalposts, is set, and where each country stands in relation to these goalposts, is expressed as a value between 0 and 1.
  - Life expectancy, education and income components

7

## Theorising pre-trial indicators

- What do we want to measure, and what do we want to compare?
- Indicators may include duration of detention, exposure rate, rate of imprisonment, etc.
- For reform processes indicators need to be specific to local laws and context
- Different indicators need to be emphasized in different contexts
- Indicators can be used to track larger trends within specific reform processes

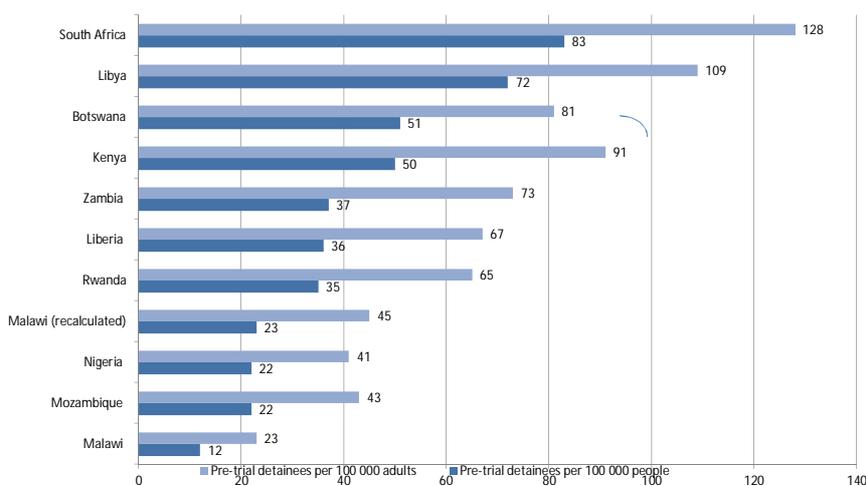
8

## Indicators in Africa

- Characteristics specific to Africa may affect how we construct our indicators:
  - Police cells used for PTDs
  - Open prisons
  - Youthful country populations
  - Impact of seasonal / abrupt changes
  - Arbitrary detentions arising from political issues
- Characteristics specific to country's laws or systems may also change what we choose as indicators

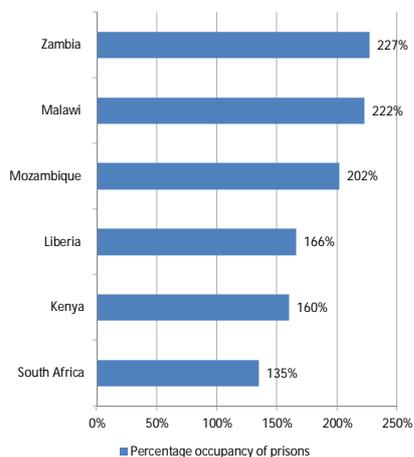
9

## Pre-trial detention rate (people versus adults)



10

## Overcrowding (open prisons)



- Yet South Africa has an “occupancy-hour” measure of 31.05 while Malawi has one of 26.64 – suggesting South Africa has a worse situation than Malawi.