Development Challenges in PNG: insight through Statistics

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Key Development Challenges

- High incidence of Poverty
- High rates of mortality
- Poor health
- Low educational attainment
- Low on HDI
- And many more???

Tackling those challenges must be priority
But
Do we know enough?

Data

Availability and accessibility of recent, quality, data is a development indicator

Absence or deficit of data poses a development challenges (Objective)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
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 GOALS

Motivation

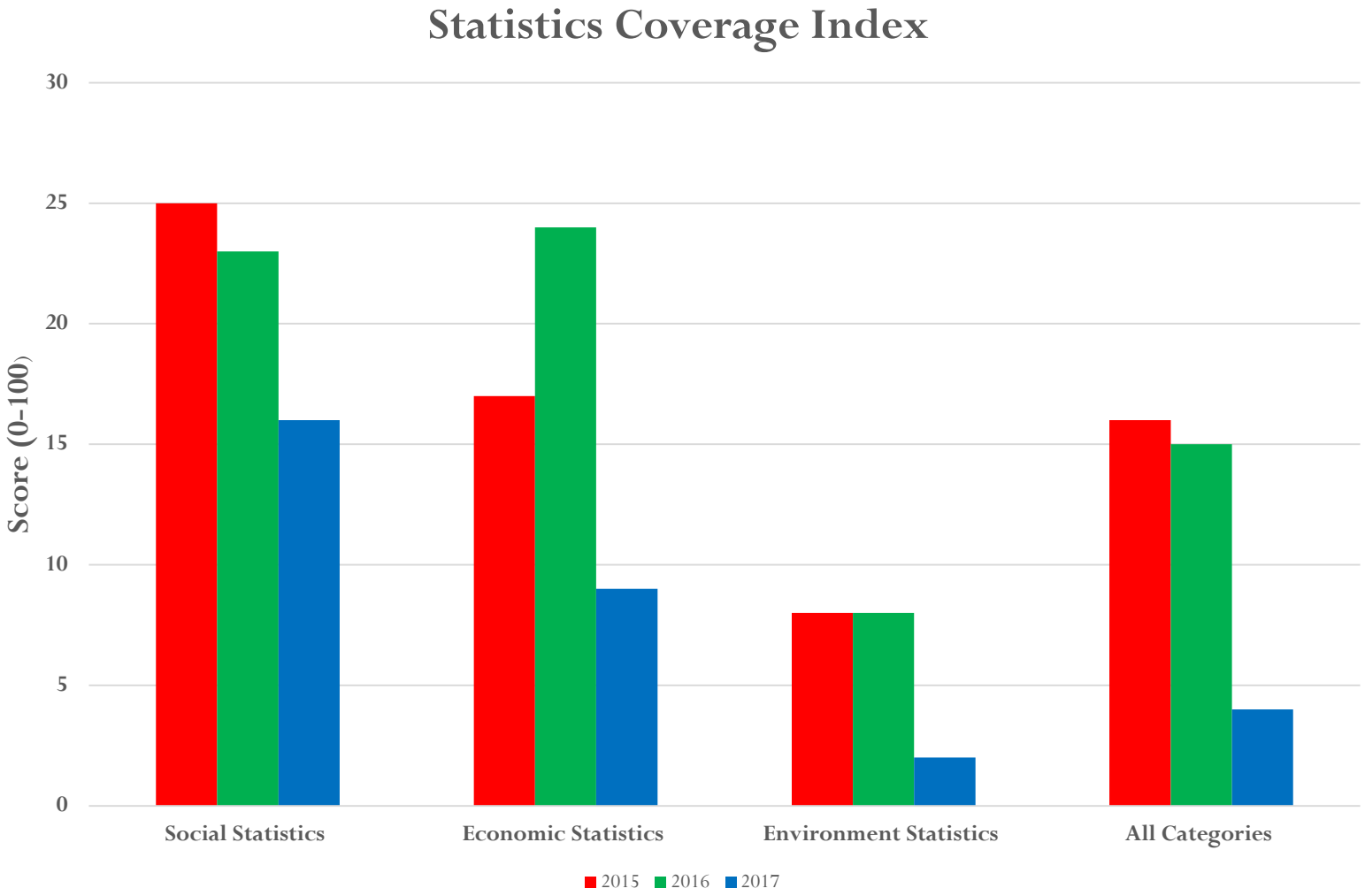
SDG 17 includes data, monitoring and accountability as a secondary goals. In particular, indicator 17.18 reads

"By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts"

Strategy

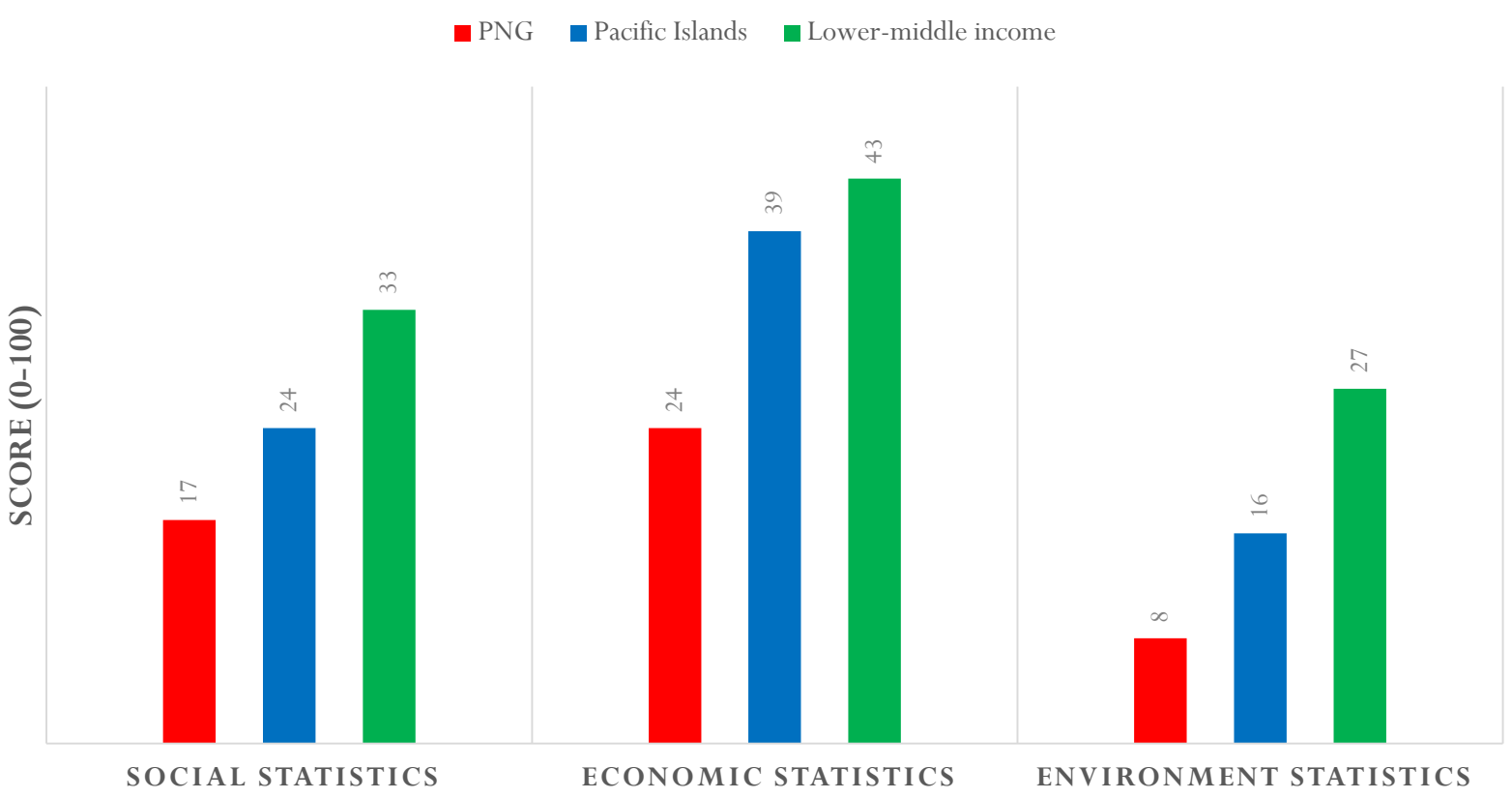
1. PNG's statistical capacity assessment
2. General data issues
3. Identification and assessment of SDG data sources
4. Policy Recommendations

Coverage has dropped since 2015



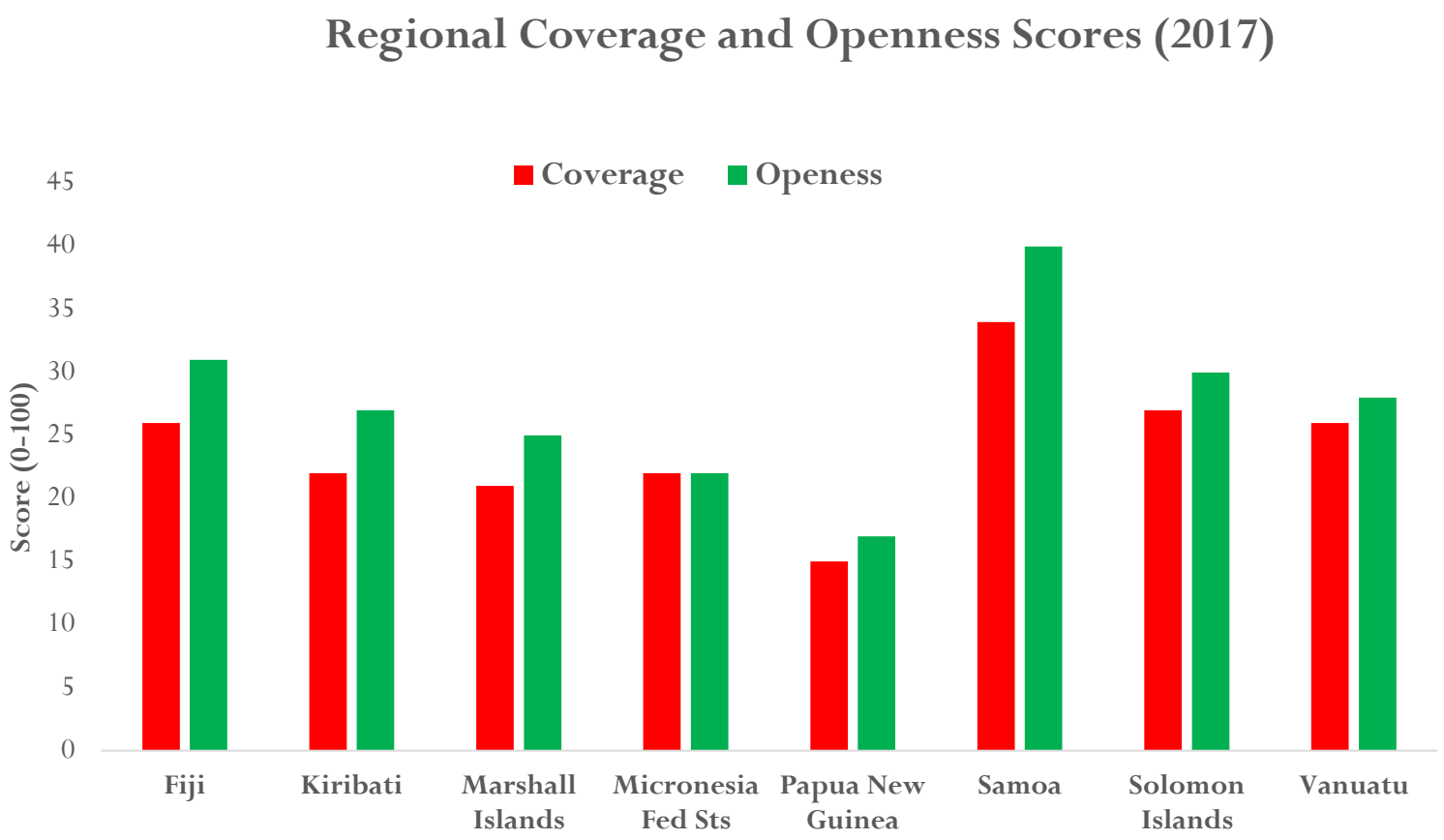
Source: Open Data Watch

Worst regional performer in Open Data



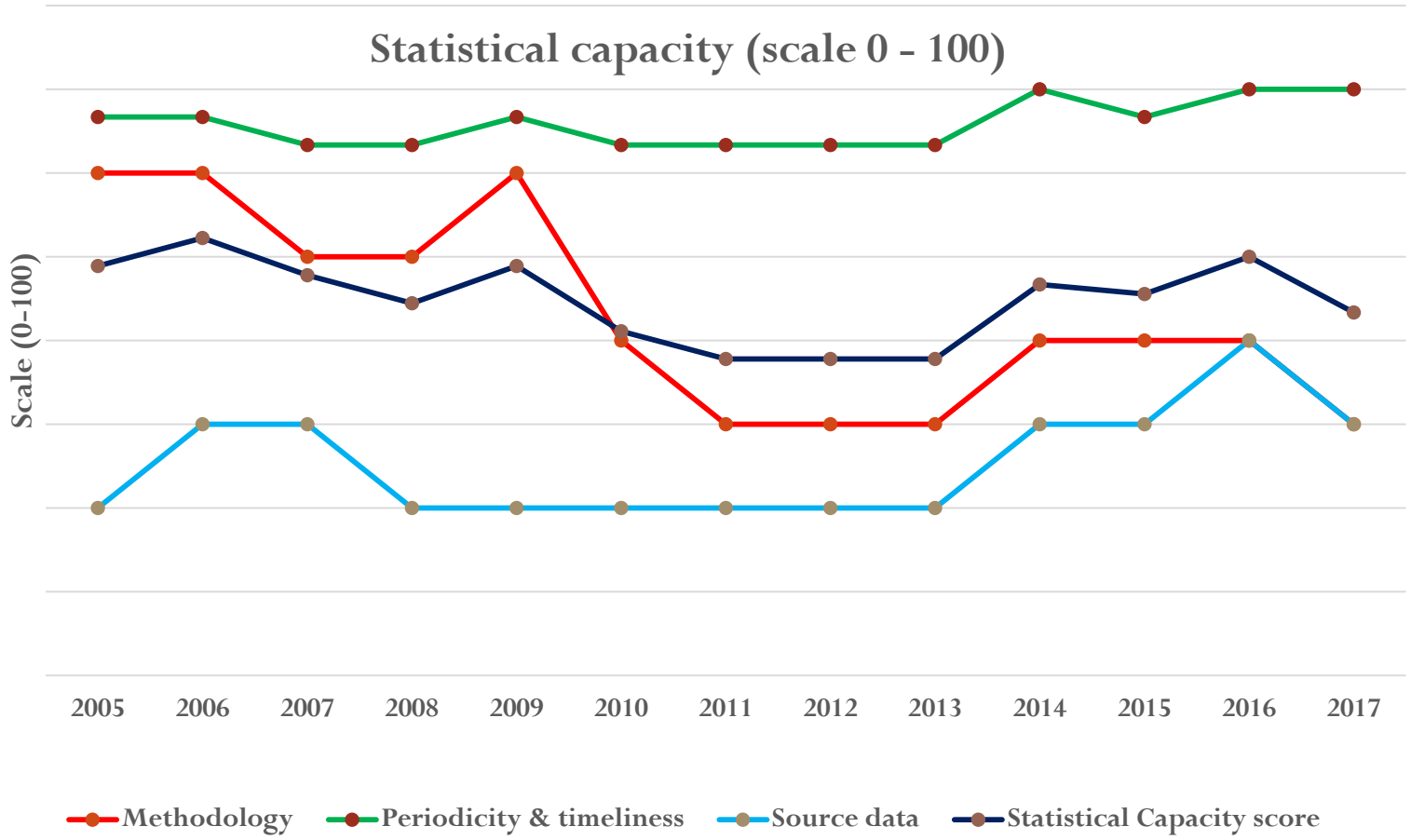
Source: Open Data Watch

Worst regional performer in coverage & openness



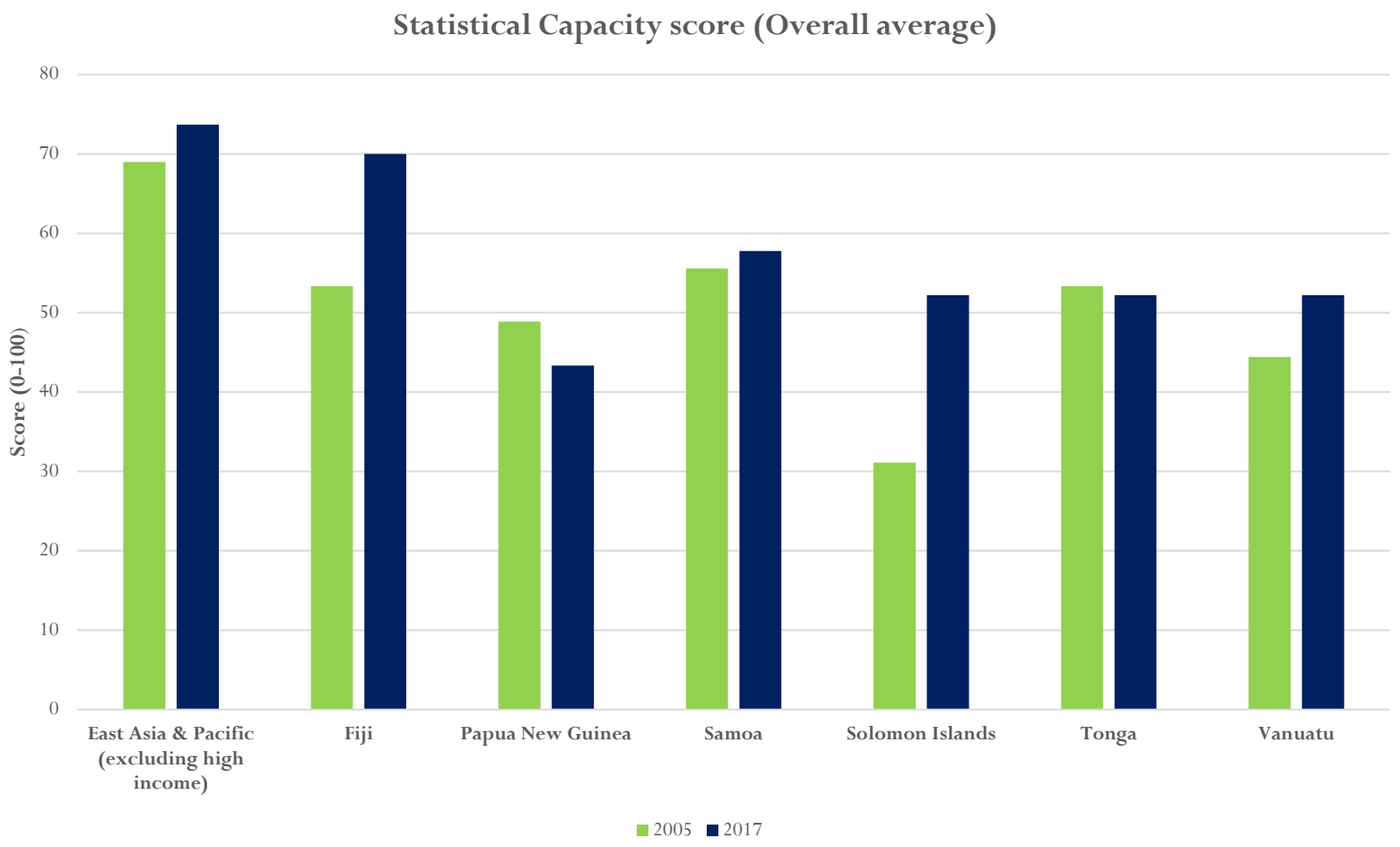
Source: Open Data Watch

Statistical capacity has not improved



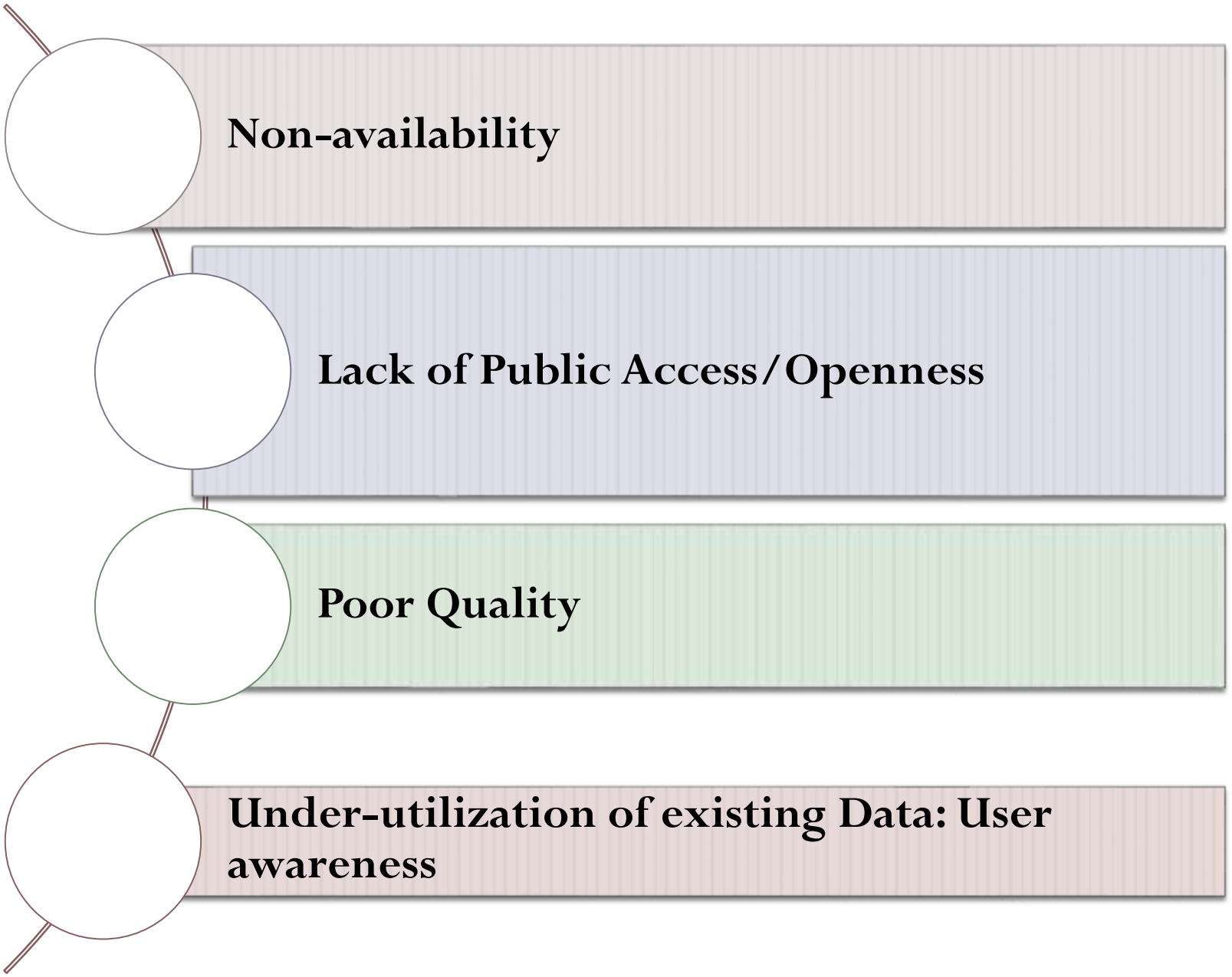
Source: World Bank's Statistical Capacity Indicators

Region is performing better in Overall Statistical capacity



Source: World Bank's Statistical Capacity Indicators

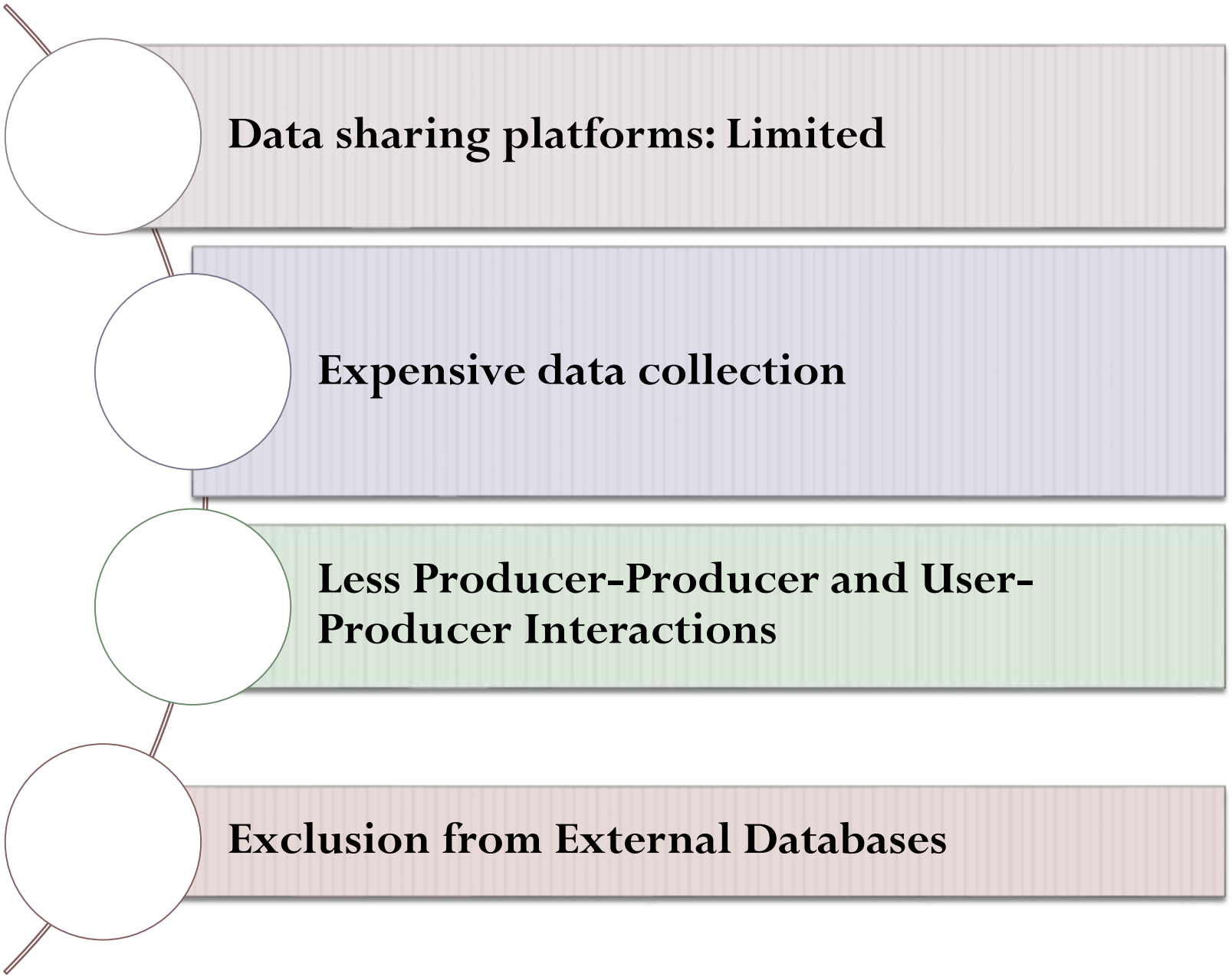
PNG Data Issues



PNG Data Issues

- Less Frequent and Irregular collection cycle
- Low Coverage and Large non-response rates
- Comparability across survey rounds and across data sources
- Problem with dissemination:Timeliness in Data Release/Report

PNG Data Issues



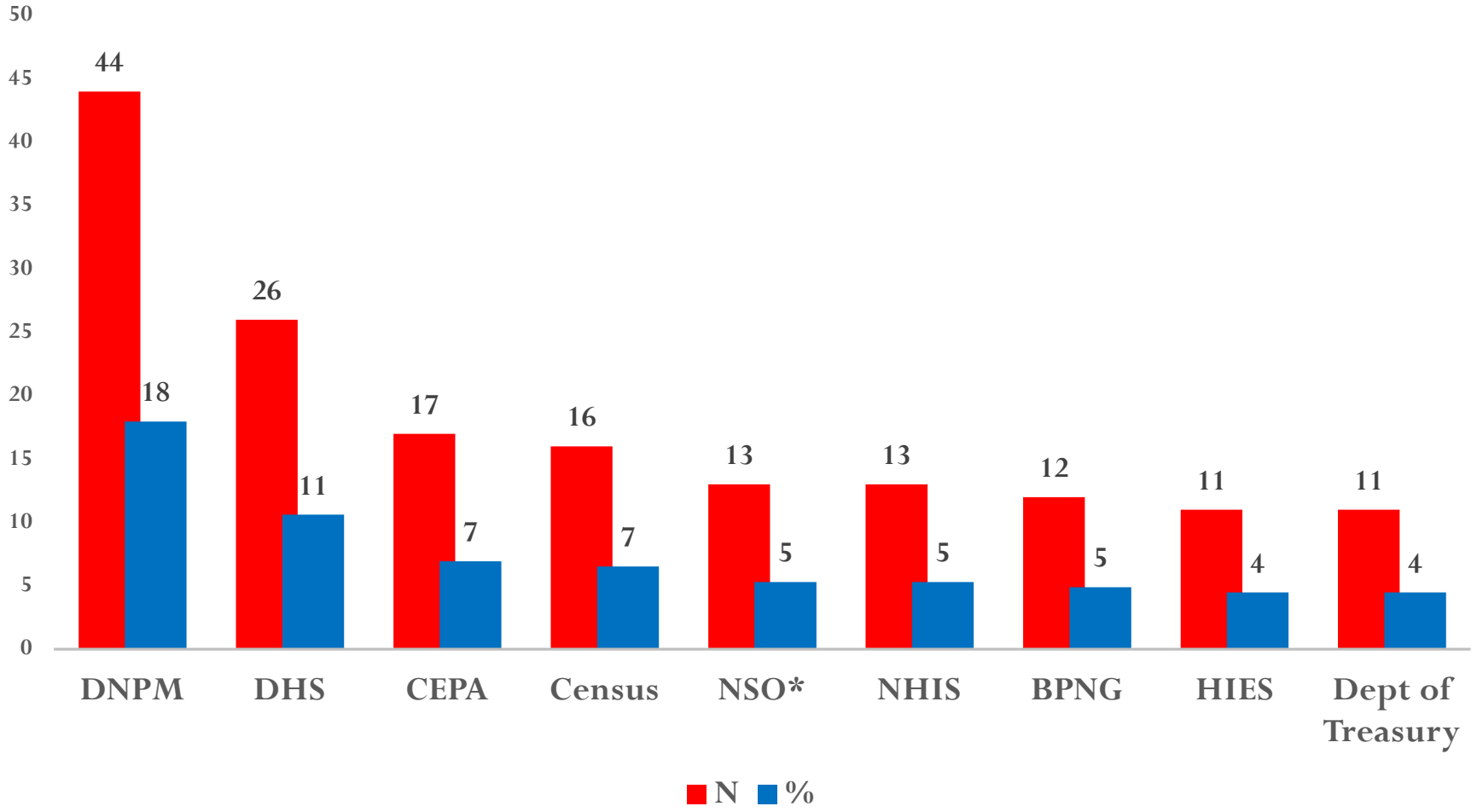
Identification of SDGs Sources

Key SDGs Data Sources

Key Sources	Goals
DNPM	All except 13, 14
DHS	1-7, 11,16
Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA)	12--14
Census	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11
NSO*	2, 9, 16, 17
NHIS	3
BPNG	8, 9, 10, 16, 17
HIES	1, 2, 8, 10,
Dept. of Treasury	1, 5, 16, 17
Department of Health	3, 16
Police	3, 16
DOE	4, 13

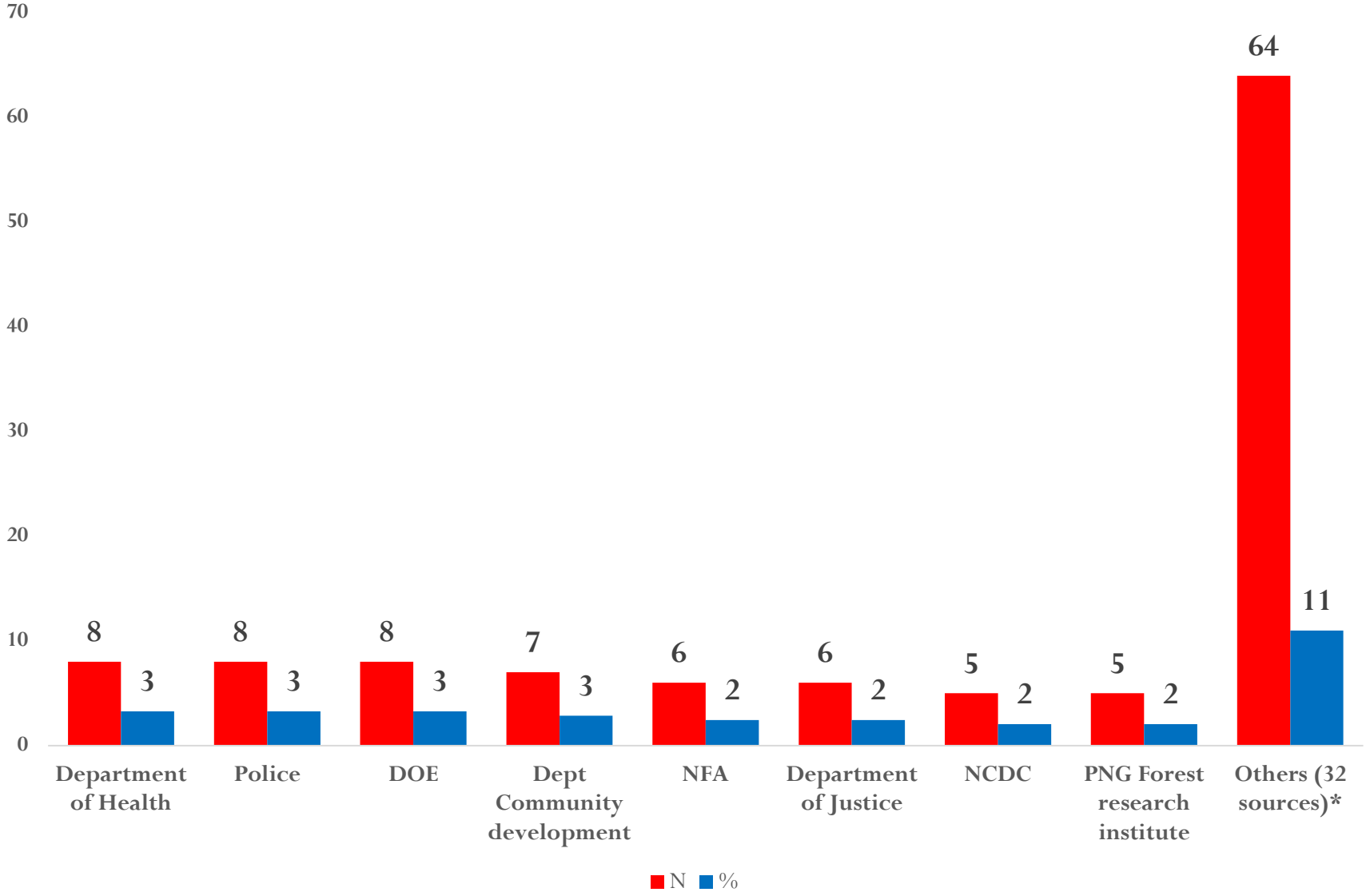
Source: Author's calculations from UNFPA (2017) and other publications

2/3rd of the SDGs indicators come from 9 sources



Source: Author's calculations based on UNFPA (2017) and other publications

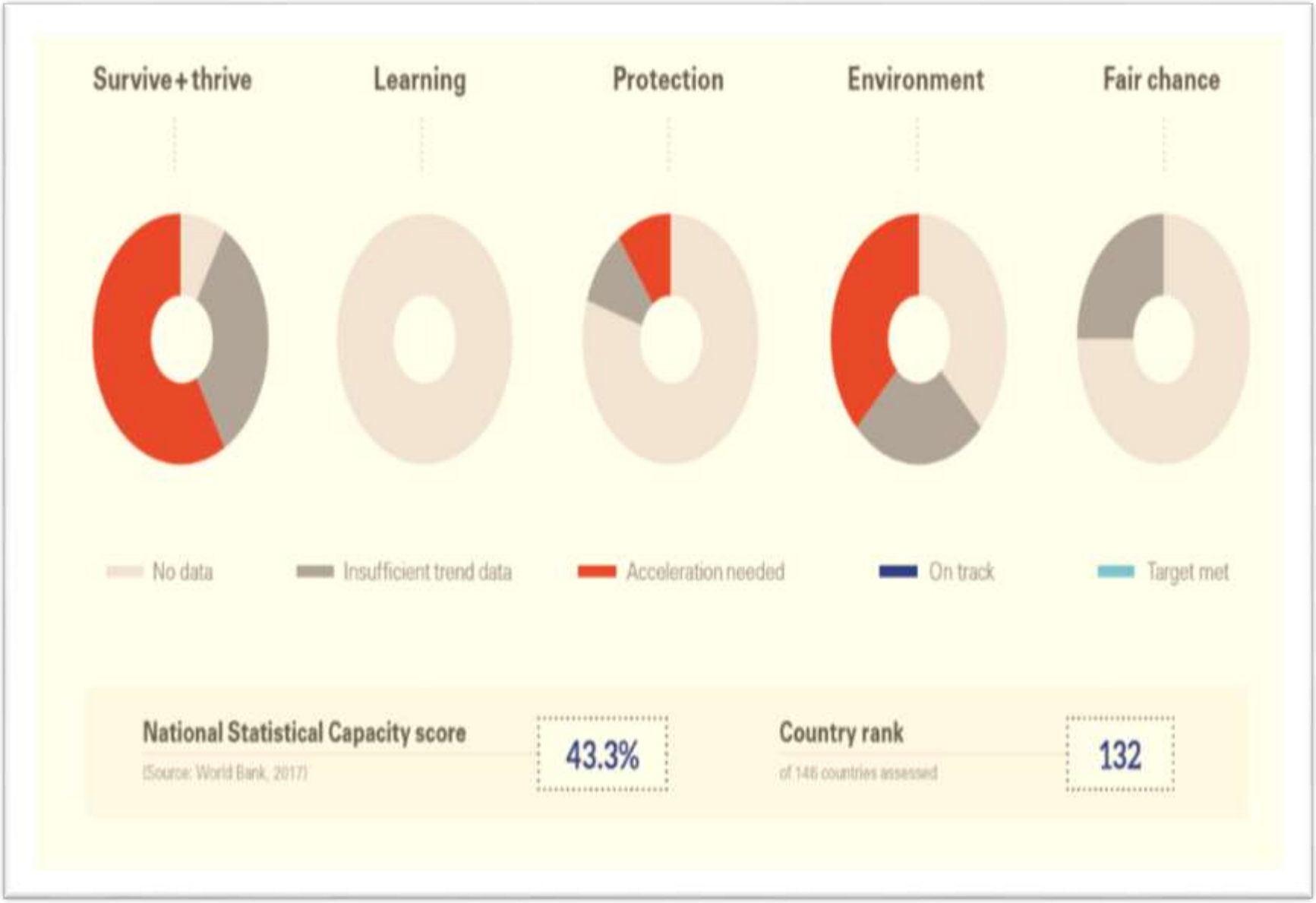
Rest 1/3rd come from over 40 sources



Source: Author's calculations based on UNFPA (2017) and other publications

Current status: coverage

- Sachs et al. (2017) reported that PNG lacks 22% of the 83 indicators used in the global version of the SDG Index
- Nearly 50% of the 245 global indicators are either missing or over 5 year older or insufficient to cover SDGs
- Very poor performance at the disaggregated level



Source: Unicef (2017)

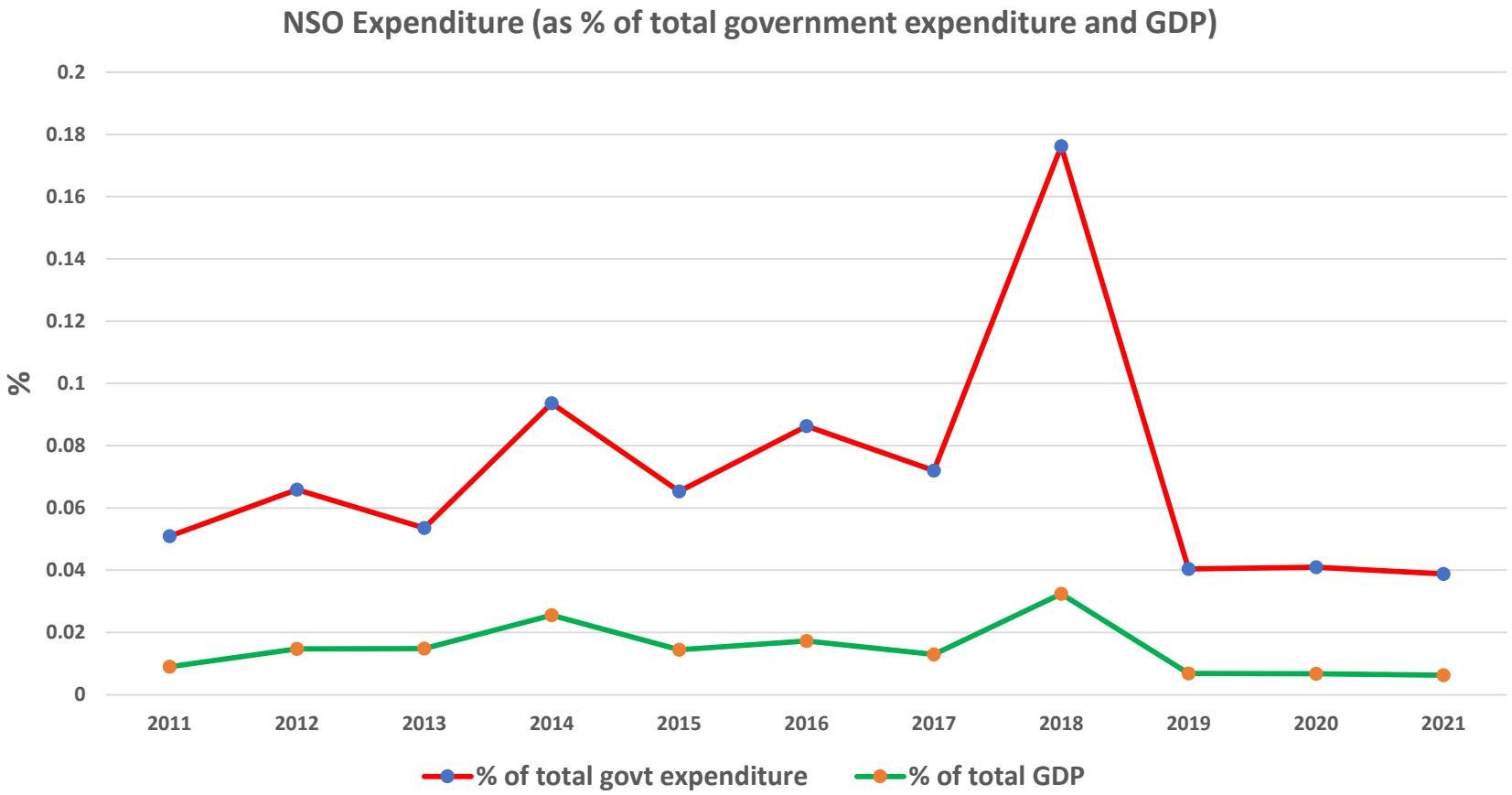
Current status: collection

- Localisation of SDGs indicators are done (UNFPA(2017))
- DHS (2016) that covers 26 indicators (11%) across 9 SDGs was supposed to be completed in early 2017. Not completed yet.
- HIES (2019/20) is progressing but timely completion is doubtful.
- Census (2021)
- DNPM, BPNG and other departments are still not integrated on SDGs

Is PNG Investing enough?

Source: PNG National Budget (2012-2018)

Heavy reliance upon aid partners



Source: PNG National Budget (2012-2018)

Policy recommendations

- 2020 is not far and PNG's statistical capacity is limited
- Focus on fewer SDGs
- Work on major data sources and priority to timely completion of regular surveys
- More investment in data, monitoring and collection is needed and international aid is crucial
- Timely completion of regular surveys and administrative data is the key
- Better data, Better development, Better life

Thank you!