OPEN DATA FACT SHEET
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Over half of the organizations that use open data in Sub-Saharan Africa* are nonprofits and developer groups. A third are in the governance sector. The vast majority are SMEs.

* Regions and country income levels reflect the World Bank geographic regions and income-level classifications.

SUMMARY

Open data is supporting good-government initiatives across Sub-Saharan Africa. It is being used to improve budget transparency in Nigeria, for electoral monitoring in Malawi and Ghana, to improve urban planning in South Africa, and to provide information about schools and water resources in Kenya. Many are using open data to provide information on public services and empower local communities. The majority of the organizations, both nonprofit and for-profit, are in low to lower-middle income countries.

Other sectors with high use of open data include agriculture, education, IT and geospatial. Organizations use open data to develop mobile and web applications that enhance access to information on social and government services, and to provide businesses with market and environmental information. The most used types of data in this region include demographic and social, agriculture, and health data, as well as data on government operations such as budgets, contracts and spending.

USE CASES

Economics Association of Zambia

Undertaking research, training, education, publication and consultancy in the field of economics and related disciplines

Country: Zambia

Impact: Evidence-based economic policy recommendations and advocacy to reduce poverty in Zambia

Data Used: Central statistical office and Central Bank of Zambia (economic indicators, health indicators, household surveys - living conditions survey, demographic survey, census (industry performance), population census, agriculture census)

URL: http://eaz.org.zm

Farmerline

An SMS-based service that provides small-scale farmers with up-to-date agricultural information and advisement
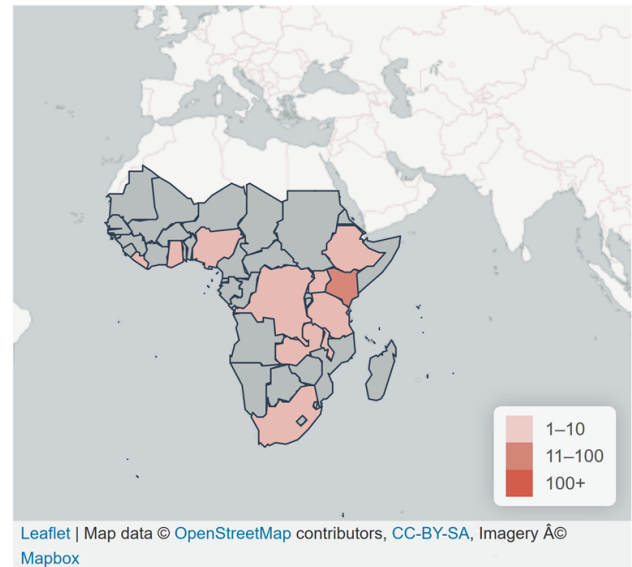
Country: Ghana

Impact: Helps farmers increase crop yield and encourages new farming practices

Data Used: Agriculture data from Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), weather data from a number of sources

URL: http://farmerline.co/

OF ORGS USING OPEN DATA IN THE REGION

Legend:
1–10
11–100
100+

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TOP 5 SECTORS USING OPEN DATA IN THE REGION

Y-axis: Number of Organizations

X-axis categories: Governance, IT & Geospatial, Agriculture, Education, Business, Research & Consulting