Visualizations: Choropleth Map

DevResults has 3 main types of Indicator Visualizations:

- Graph (Targets and Actuals Graph)
- Map (Choropleth Map)
- Pie (Pie Chart)

The Map produces a Choropleth Map that displays a single reporting period's data. Choropleth Maps shade areas based on data reported for them--the darkest shade represents the greatest density. Locations are shown as circles with varying size; administrative divisions are shown using their shape boundaries and in different colors.

Our Choropleth Maps will create 5 equally-distributed categories of your indicator data unless the data format is whole number and the maximum data value is less than 5. (In that situation, we'll use the maximum number that has been entered as the category limit.)

Great For

Choropleth Maps are good for showing how your indicator's data varies across geographical areas. It's a strong choice when you want to show intensity or density by geography.

Using the Geography filters, you can specifically focus on geographic areas that might be high-priority for you, and you can compare Choropleth Maps from different reporting periods to show general trends in geographic areas over time.

Bad For

Generally, Choropleth Maps are designed to show averages or ranges, rather than specific data points. We have bypassed this shortcoming in our Choropleth Maps by keeping them interactive--you can click on any shaded shape and see a pop-up with details about that shape. But if you download the map for use in a report or presentation, this limitation is real: you're really only seeing data divided into these categories, and you don't have individual data points. In this static/downloaded view, Choropleth Maps can really only show you summary data rather than detail.

As such, while Choropleth Maps can generally show you some high-level changes over time, they're not the most effective at detailed investigations of things like "how have we performed in this one geographic area over time?" The Targets and Actuals graph would be a better visualization choice for this question.

Choropleth Maps also do not allow you to view data by disaggregation.
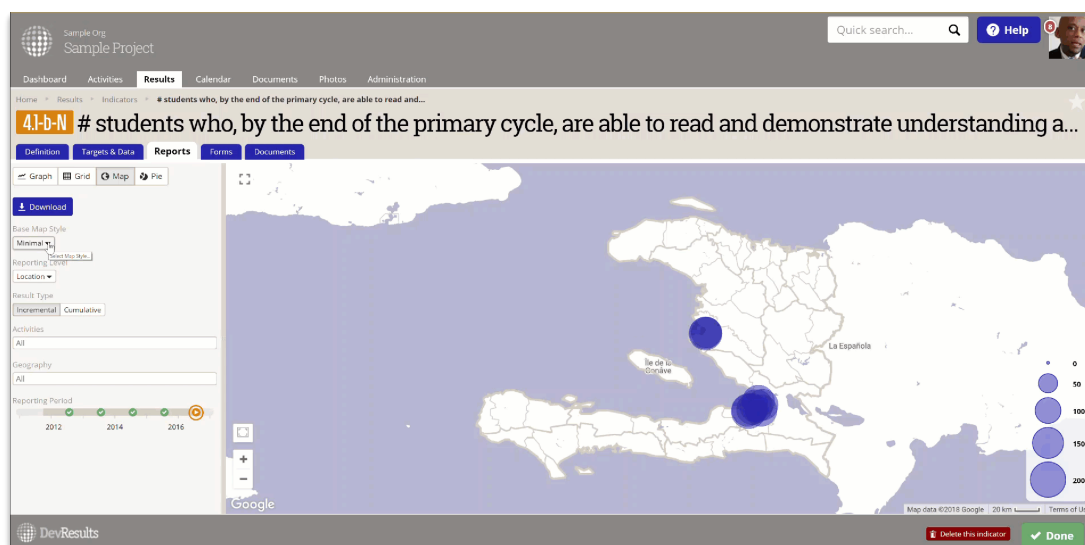
Configuration Options

As with other visualizations, you can select to view data incrementally or cumulatively and filter it by Activity and Geography.

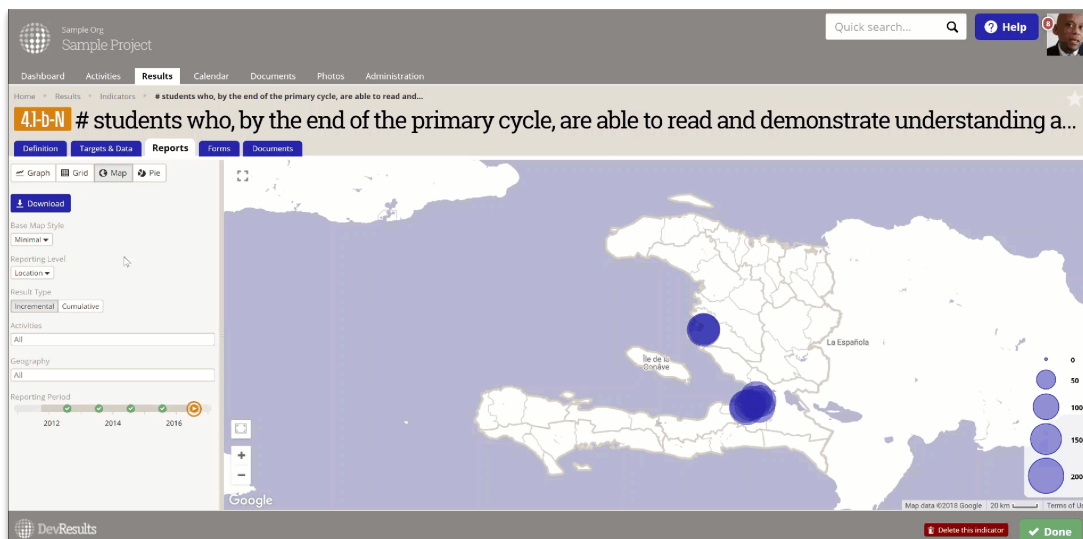Choropleth Map has a few unique configuration controls, too:

Base Map Style

The map will default to the Minimal Base Map Style, but you can choose other styles.
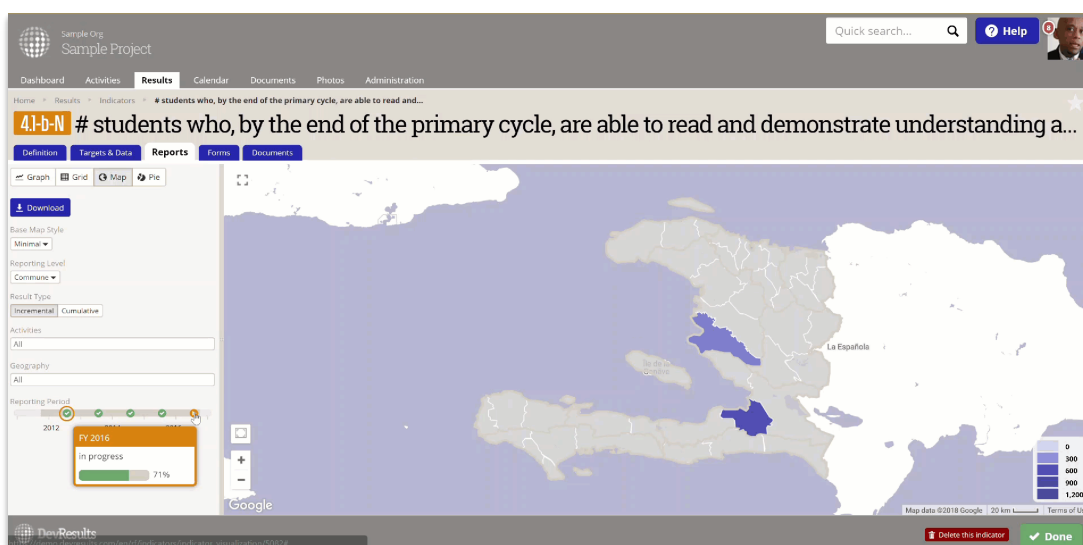

Reporting Level

The map defaults to the indicator's defined Reporting Level, but you can always select geographies that are less granular (such as country rather than location, etc.). The specific options here vary based on your site's geographic configuration.
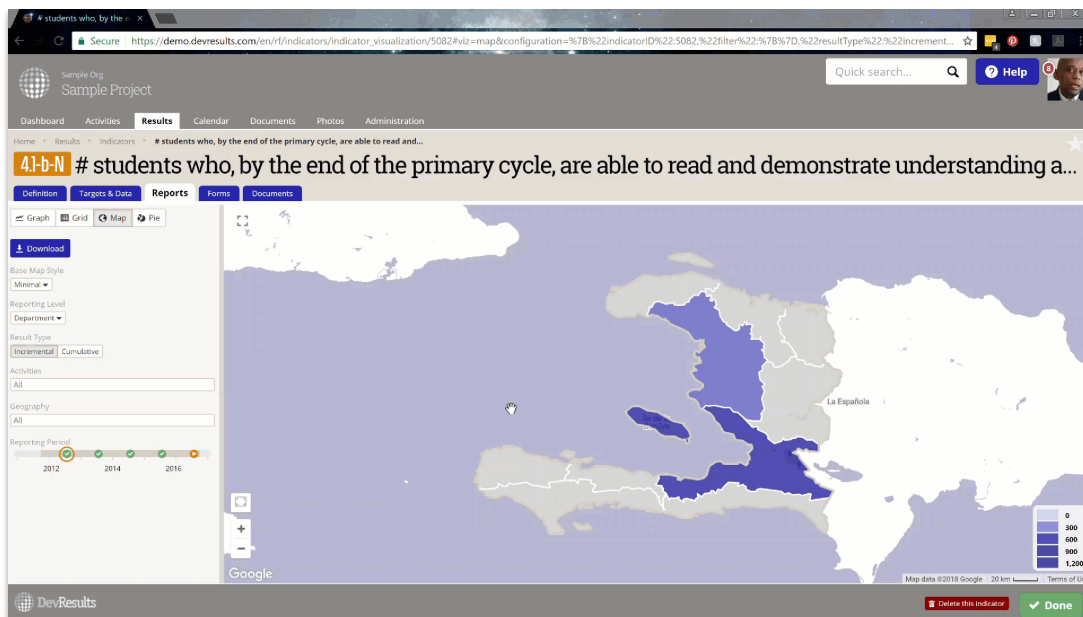
Reporting Period

The Choropleth Maps display a single reporting period at a time. Use the Reporting Period timeline to select the reporting period you wish to view.

View Full Screen

For the best level of interactivity and display during presentations, we recommend using the full-screen view option in the upper left of the map:

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