M1: Addressing Data Needs and Quality Concerns
- Help countries compile and disseminate data in three topical domains (real, external and government finance sectors) to support policy analysis and formulation and detect economic risks and vulnerabilities;
- Bring more and better data into the public domain, thus enhancing transparency and accountability; and
- Offer technical advice on enhancing source data and promoting higher-frequency data.

M2: FAS
- Provide policymakers and analysts with high-quality statistics in this unique financial inclusion database covering 189 economies (http://data.imf.org/fas);
- Improve and expand FAS to new areas, such as new access points, gender-disaggregated statistics, and costs of financial access; and
- Provide monitoring basis for SDG financial inclusion indicator.

M3: Online Learning
- Develop a new structured online learning curriculum to exponentially enhance reach of statistics training in eight fundamental statistical topical areas; and
- Offer online learning in up to six languages to allow truly global delivery.

M4: Statistical Information Management
- Develop advice to help statistical offices, central banks, and ministries to streamline, standardize, and automate their data management practices and infrastructure; and
- Enhance countries’ ability to compile and disseminate macroeconomic statistics.

The D4D Fund is a new IMF trust fund dedicated to putting more and better data in the hands of decision-makers to support evidence-based macroeconomic policies and achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Focus: Strengthen national statistical systems (NSS) to cope with a more challenging national and international policy environment, promote transparency and accountability, and offer efficient solutions to capacity development (CD).

Conceptual Foundation: Based on a needs assessment that considered (i) demand from countries, (ii) policy relevance, (iii) identified data gaps and data quality concerns, (iv) complementarity of CD provided out of the IMF’s Regional Technical Assistance Centers (RTACs) and bilateral CD projects, and (v) the need for flexibility to react to a country’s capacity and readiness to accept CD.

Target countries: Mainly low- and lower middle-income countries (LLMICS) world-wide, including fragile states.

Size: US$33 million (including a 7 percent IMF trust fund management fee).

Modules of the D4D Fund:

- M1: Addressing Data Needs and Quality Concerns
- M2: Financial Access Survey (FAS)
- M3: Online Learning
- M4: Statistical Information Management

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Good data are essential for informed decision-making, both by the public and private sectors. The 2007/08 global crisis underlined that data used for decision-making were deficient, and key the effects on risks and vulnerabilities was unavailable. This affected all statistical sectors, but was most pronounced in the fiscal and financial domains. While it is imperative to improve data availability to avoid future crises and invest in statistics, the global effort to achieve 17 SDGs underlying the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development poses additional challenges for countries’ NSS to modernize their statistical development. This is even more important in LLMCs. The D4D Fund aims to offer support to these countries to meet these challenges.

Why does investment in statistics help promote transparency and accountability?

Transparency enables a better-informed debate by governments and their various stakeholders about the formulation, analysis, and results of policy-making. It helps highlight the trade-offs, and risks that fed into decisions taken, and instills credibility to the authorities’ policies. Apart from fostering accountability with domestic stakeholders—parliament, civil society and the public at large—making more and better data available also helps mitigate and manage perceived risks by domestic and global investors. Studies have found that improved data transparency has reduced sovereign borrowing costs and increased FDI inflows, among others.

How does online learning build capacity?

IMF statistics training courses are heavily oversubscribed, given the huge capacity needs worldwide. By developing and offering eight fundamental statistics courses in up to six languages to LLMIC officials and others, the IMF can vastly leverage the reach of its training, and provide knock-on effects beyond macroeconomic statistics. IMF experience shows that participants in LLMICs benefit most from online learning.

How can the FAS support policy-making and SDG compliance?

The FAS is a high-quality, supply-side financial inclusion database with a global reach to support policy analysis and formulation. Financial inclusion is critical to inclusive growth and economic stability. Well-managed, financial inclusion can undermine stability. A good understanding of financial inclusion and ability to formulate development and macro-prudential policies hinges on available high-quality data—which is what the FAS offers. The FAS is constantly being adapted to close data gaps, capture innovation, and enhance its relevance, such as by capturing gender-disaggregated data or the costs of financial access. The D4D Fund will help ensure the medium-term financial sustainability of the FAS, and partners will be able to help shape its future direction.

How can partners benefit from joining the D4D Fund?

Partners will help ensure that the D4D Fund’s objectives are met and countries make targeted progress. They can bring in their technical expertise, experience in providing or funding CD, and knowledge of particular countries to help steer priorities in work plans. As such, the policy focus of the CD will help partners’ priority countries improve their policy-making. As many potential partners have committed to supporting the SDGs under their respective development strategies, the D4D Fund offers an efficient solution to demonstrate results in helping LLMICs meet the SDG challenges. Partners will also be afforded visibility, as their flag or logo will be embedded in the D4D Fund’s logo and appear on TA reports and outreach materials, and be displayed at workshops.