



Data for Decision (D4D) Topical Trust Fund

Supporting the production of more and better data to enhance evidence-based macroeconomic decision-making

Rationale

Sound economic statistics are fundamental for policymakers in order to formulate prudent economic policies, monitor their implementation and assess early on potential vulnerabilities. Moreover, the availability of accurate, timely and reliable data for the public fosters accountability and transparency of government decisions and is conducive to private sector decision-making. Recent economic crisis have revealed critical gaps in data architecture and raised calls for investment in the global statistical capacity.

Stronger statistical capacity is particularly important for low-income and lower-middle-income states in order to achieve their objectives in terms of poverty reduction and economic growth. While policy needs are pressing in these countries, the lack of resources in national administrations regarding staff level and expertise as well as the weakness in supporting infrastructure impair the production of economic data, rendering evidence based policy decisions often difficult.

The UN 2030 development agenda explicitly calls for intensified efforts by the international community to strengthen capacities of national statistical offices and data systems in developing countries to ensure access to a wide range of data and to monitor progress in meeting development objectives. Against this background, Switzerland has contributed CHF 4 million to the Data for Decisions (D4D) Trust Fund, with the overall goal of putting more and better data in the hands of decision-makers, thereby enhancing evidence-based macroeconomic policies, supporting the achievements of the SDGs, and fostering private sector investments.

Objectives and activities

The overall objective of the D4D Trust Fund is to assist low-income and lower-middle-income countries to strengthening national statistical systems, to promote transparency and accountability, and to offer efficient solutions to capacity development with a clear priority on data that are critical for policy decisions. The trust fund delivers technical assistance based on a needs assessment of recipient countries and organized around four modules that cover well-established technical assistance measures (Module 2 not financed by SECO):

- 1. Addressing Data Needs and Quality Concerns:** Capacity development for the compilation and dissemination of data in three topical areas that are particularly important to detect economic and fiscal risks and vulnerabilities: Real Sector Statistics, External Sector Statistics, and Government Finance Statistics.

Country/region

Global

Executing agency

International

Monetary Fund (IMF)

Duration

2018-2023

Partners

China, European Union, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, South Korea, The Netherlands

Total budget

USD 33'000'000

SECO contribution

CHF 4'000'000

2. **Financial Access Survey:** Continued and further production of the financial access survey, a global database on financial inclusion.
3. **Online Learning:** Enhancement of the reach of statistics training in fundamental statistical topical areas through an online curriculum. The courses are available in English and up to five other languages.
4. **Statistical Information Management:** Support to statistical offices, central banks, and ministries of finance to streamline, standardize and automate their data management with the goal to enhance their ability to compile and disseminate macroeconomic and financial statistics.

Governance Structure

The D4D Trust Fund is being implemented as an IMF managed Multi-Donor Trust Fund. Work under the MDTF is guided by a Steering Committee, composed of development partner representatives and IMF staff. The IMF's statistic department supervises, executes, and backstops the delivery of technical assistance under the D4D Trust Fund to ensure its quality and consistency.

How to get involved

The main beneficiaries of the D4D Trust Fund are low-income and lower-medium-income countries. However, the fund may also provide some limited technical assistance to upper-middle-income countries. The choice of target countries is based on robust selection criteria and careful screening of technical assistance requests to maximize the chance of reform success.

Further information and contact details

Website: <https://www.imf.org/en/Capacity-Development/d4d-fund>

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