The Financial Access Survey and SDG indicators

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The views expressed herein are those of the author and should not be attributed to the IMF, its Executive Board, or its management.
Objectives

- Enhance understanding of FAS methodology for SDG indicators.
- Discuss country challenges in measuring FAS SDG indicators.
Agenda

- Overview of the Financial Access Survey (FAS)
- FAS data collection
- FAS Methodology
- Measurement of FAS SDG indicators
- FAS data dissemination
- FAS SDG indicators in UN ESCWA countries
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Measuring financial inclusion

**Dimensions**

- **Access**
  - Supply-side data
    - Information collected from financial service providers through reporting to central banks and/or regulators.
  - GSMA Global Adoption Survey: Survey of mobile money service providers of 90 economies.
  - Global Payment System Survey: Survey of national and regional central banks and monetary authorities.

- **Use**
  - Demand-side data
    - Information collected from users of financial services through household and firm surveys.
  - World Bank Global Findex: Survey of 150,00 adults in 140 economies.
  - FinScope: Available for around 30 countries.
  - FinAccess: Survey designed through industry consultation.

- **Other***

*Other dimensions include affordability, quality, wellbeing, etc.*
Financial Access Survey (FAS): Snapshot

**FAS Coverage**
- 189 jurisdictions
- 121 series and 70 indicators
- 17 years of data

**FAS disaggregation**
- SMEs and households
- Banks, MFIs, credit unions and cooperatives
- Gender

**Type of FAS information**
- **Access:** geographical outreach
- **Usage:**
  - Loans, deposits, and insurance
  - Mobile money & mobile and internet banking
The FAS provides granular data

**FAS Overview**

- Access to financial services
  - Institutions
  - Branches
  - Non-branch retail agent outlets
  - ATMs
  - Active and registered mobile money agents

**Use of financial services**

- Depositors/deposit accounts
- Borrowers/loan accounts
- Outstanding deposits
- Outstanding loans
- Debit cards and credit cards
- Insurance policy holders/policies
- Mobile & internet banking transactions
- Mobile money transactions
- Outstanding mobile money balance
- Active and registered mobile money accounts

**Categories**

- Commercial banks
- Credit unions and credit cooperatives
- Microfinance institutions
- Other deposit takers
- Insurance corporations
- Household sector
- Small and medium enterprises
- Gender statistics
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The collection process involves several institutions:

- Financial Service Providers
  - Commercial banks
  - Credit unions and credit cooperatives
  - Microfinance institutions
  - Mobile Money Service Providers
  - Other Financial Service Providers

- Central Banks and other regulators

- The IMF
Timely reporting of data is crucial

**Preparation materials**

- **Jan – Mar**
  - Preparation of the survey questionnaire, FAS Manual and Guidelines and testing of data collection systems

**Data submission**

- **Mar**
  - Invitation
- **Apr - May**
  - FAS Questionnaire sent to countries
  - Countries to submit the duly filled questionnaire

**Consolidation & dissemination**

- **Jun - Aug**

**FAS release**

- **Sep**
  - Data validation and verification
  - Consultation with countries to resolve data issues
  - Analysis of the data collected
  - Release of the results along with the FAS Trends and Developments and press release.
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FAS concepts can be found in two manuals


2. All concepts of the FAS are explained in the accompanying FAS Manual and Guidelines.

The manuals are available in English, Spanish, and French.

To have a global database which allows for meaningful cross-country comparison, adhering to the suggested methodology while reporting data is important.
Metadata is critical to understand country-specific cases

Metadata webpage

Report deviations from the methodology
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FAS SDG indicators are based on two data sources

**Financial access survey (FAS)**
- Institutions of Commercial Banks
- Branches of Commercial Banks
- Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)

**World Development Indicators (WDI)**
- Adult population (older than 15 years old)
Calculation of FAS SDG indicators

FAS SDG Indicators

8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults

8.10.1 (b) Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults

Note:
These SDG indicators are being revisited to properly reflect developments of digital financial innovations driven by rapid technological breakthroughs.
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Welcome to the Financial Access Survey Portal

The FAS is the key source of global supply-side data on financial inclusion, encompassing data on access to and usage of financial services by firms and households that can be compared across countries and over time.

https://data.imf.org/FAS
FAS analytical work over the years
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8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults (2020)
8.10.1 (b) Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults (2020)
Thank you!

FAS website: data.imf.org/FAS
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