

ITU EGTI/EGH2023

EGTI Session on Mobile Money Pilot Study

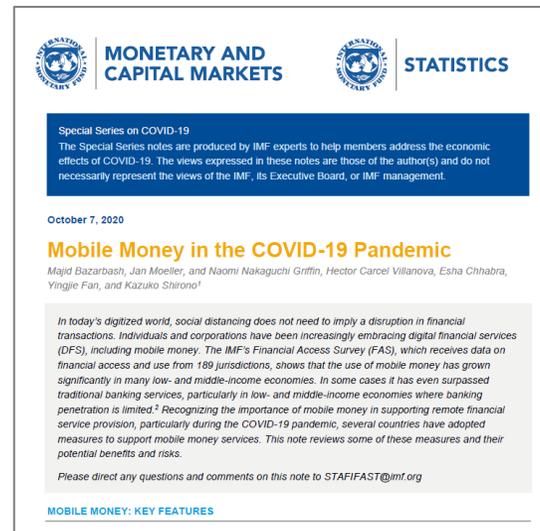
- Relevant insights from IMF Financial Access Survey

20 September | 09:30-10:15 (CET)



IMF Financial Access Surveys

- a “unique supply-side database on access to and use of financial services, including digital financial services and gender-disaggregated data. It covers 189 economies, with 121 data series and historical data from 2004.”
- Recent introduction of questions on Mobile Money as part of digital financial services in the IMF Financial Access Surveys (with data available since 2018);
- Statistics are freely accessible at the IMF FAS website, along with methodology documents defining indicators and describing data collection (available in English, French and Spanish);
- Reports and insights on FAS website



Mobile Money seen as part of financial services

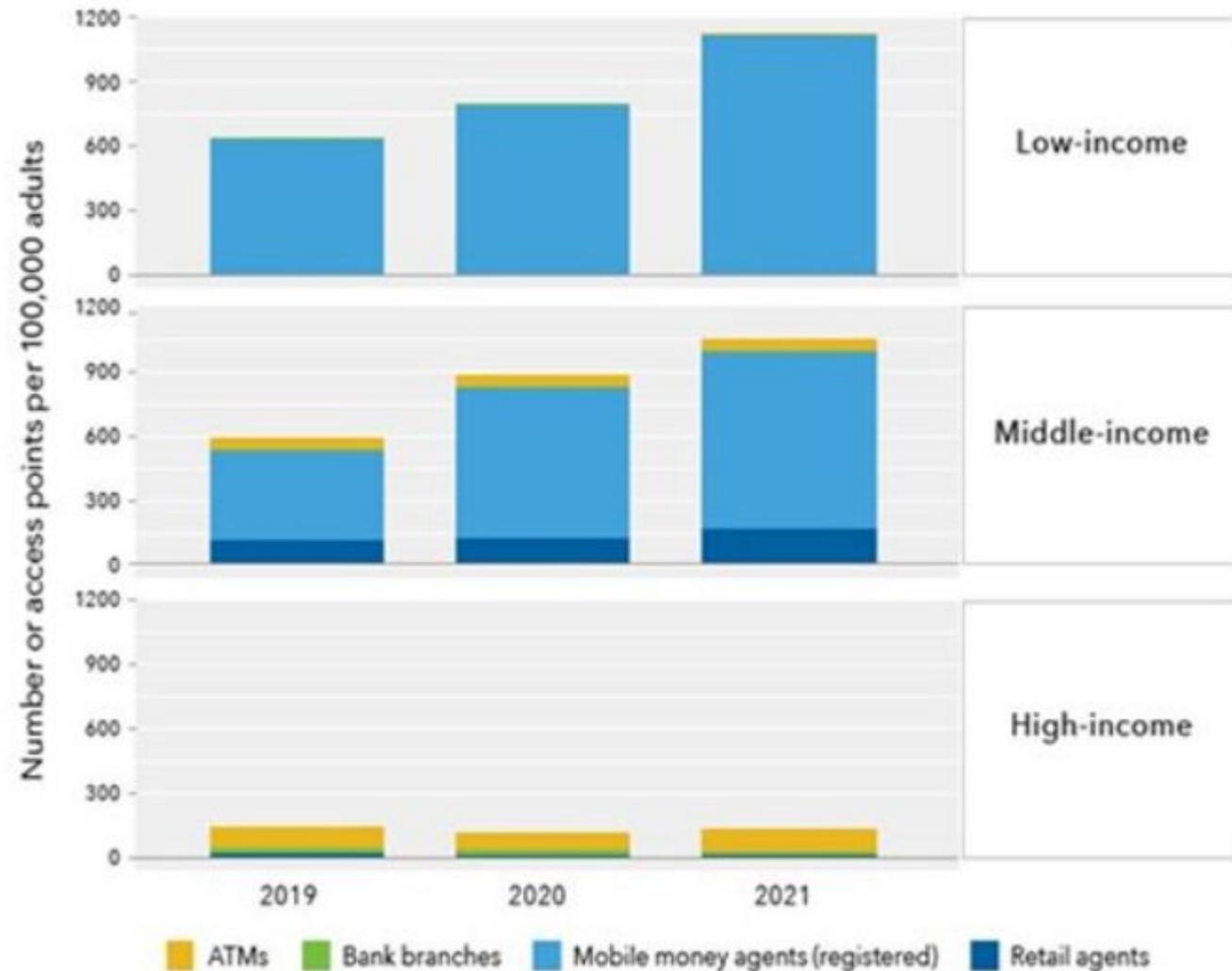
- transition from traditional financial access points to mobile agents and retail agent outlets in some developing economies since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Use of digital financial services increased from 2019 to 2021:
low-income economies: MM transactions value increased from about 40% of GDP to 70%;
middle-income countries: value of mobile and internet banking transactions increasing from 225% to 324% of GDP

(quotes from IMF Press Release* of 5 Oct 2022)

Note: The chart shows the weighted average of four types of financial access points by country income group for countries whose data are available for 2019-2021. Country coverage differs across the types of financial access points.

* "IMF Releases the 2022 Financial Access Survey Results"

New ways to access finance is gaining momentum



Source: IMF Financial Access Survey and IMF staff calculations.

IMF FAS Mobile Money Definitions

Mobile money is a pay-as-you-go digital medium of exchange and store of value using mobile money accounts, facilitated by a network of mobile money agents. It is a financial service offered to its clients by a mobile network operator or another entity that partners with mobile network operators, independent of the traditional banking network.

Please note that the services that offer mobile phone as just another channel to access a traditional banking product are not considered mobile money. A bank account is not required to use mobile money services—the only pre-requisite is a basic mobile phone.

A **registered mobile money account** is an account registered with a resident mobile money service provider that is primarily accessed using a mobile phone and can be used for basic financial transactions, including peer-to-peer transfers, bill payments, merchant payments and international remittances (wherever allowed).

An **active mobile money account** refers to a registered mobile money account that has been used to conduct a mobile money or cash-in cash-out transaction over the past 90 days.

A **registered mobile money agent outlet** can be a person, quasi-corporation, corporation or a machine that facilitates mobile money account registration, cash-in cash-out transactions, and customer support. Small retail shops and other retailers typically serve as agents in low-income and emerging economies.

An **active mobile money agent outlet** refers to a registered mobile money agent outlet that has facilitated at least one transaction over the past 30 days.

Mobile money transaction refers to a financial payment or transfer to a third party using balances on a mobile money account via a mobile phone, including peer-to-peer (P2P) transfers, bill payments, merchant payments, and international remittances. Services that offer the mobile phone as just another channel to access a traditional banking product are not included. The service must offer an interface for initiating transactions for agents and/or customers that is available on basic mobile devices.

The IMF has also been collecting Mobile money statistics!

	 ITU Mobile Money Indicators	 IMF Mobile Money indicators
Source:	ITU Pilot Questionnaire sent to WTI Statistical focal points (admin data from operators/central banks)	Financial Access Survey (FAS) (Admin data collected by Central Banks and other financial regulators)
Same/Similar indicators	Mobile money active customer accounts	Number of active mobile money accounts
	Nr. of domestic account-to-account transfers	Number of mobile money transactions (during the ref. year)
	Value of domestic account-to-account transfers	Value of mobile money transactions (during the ref. year)
	Number of active mobile money agents	Number of active mobile money agent outlets
Other indicators		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of registered mobile money accounts • Outstanding balances on active mobile money accounts • Average number of mobile money transactions per active mobile money account • Number of registered mobile money agent outlets
Main differences	Domestic transfers only Active agent: 90 days	All transfers: international remittances included [?] Active agent: 30 days

<https://data.imf.org/fas>

The IMF Data collection

- Data from Central Banks and financial regulatory authorities
- Higher coverage than ITU pilot questionnaire

Data availability by region (last avail. 2020-2022)	Number of active mobile money accounts	Number of mobile money transactions	Value of mobile money transactions	Number of active mobile money agent outlets
Africa	23	24	24	23
Americas	5	9	9	2
Arab States	2	5	4	1
Asia & Pacific	6	10	9	5
CIS countries	1	1	1	0
Europe	1	4	4	1
WORLD	38	53	51	32

Active MM accounts data availability by year	2020	2021	2022
IMF only	35	34	25
ITU only	15	15	16
Both ITU and IMF	9	11	12

Draft FAS pilot questionnaire - Mobile Money indicators

Mobile money data:

- Number of mobile money providers
- Number of transactions
- Outstanding values (in Millions of domestic currency)

Mobile-enabled loans:

- Number of providers
- Number of borrowers
- Number of loan accounts
- Value of loans (during the reference year) (in Millions of domestic currency)
- Outstanding value of loans (in Millions of domestic currency)
- Non-performing loans
- Average interest rate

Mobile money-enabled deposits:

- Number of providers
- Number of depositors
- Number of deposit accounts
- Value of deposits (during the reference year) (in Millions of domestic currency)
- Outstanding value of deposits (in Millions of domestic currency)
- Average interest rate

MM data disaggregated by gender:

- Number of mobile money holders with all mobile money operators
- Number of registered mobile money accounts
- Number of active mobile money accounts
- Number of registered mobile money agent outlets
- Number of active mobile money agent outlets
- Number of mobile money transactions
- Value of mobile money transactions (in Millions of domestic currency)

Conclusion

- IMF: MM part of broader picture on financial inclusion
- Focal points are central banks and financial regulators:
- How to avoid duplication of efforts?
 - For ITU focal points: would mean burden of data collection with additional institutional coordination need
 - IMF conducts capacity development to ensure clear understanding of definitions;
 - IMF has established methodology for validating data and quality assurance, and refinement
- IMF FAS team open for collaboration: receptive to feedback and suggestions from ITU

Thank You!