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# Mobile Financial Services and Microfinance: A Risk - Based Approach to Regulatory Policy and Mobile Financial Services

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#### **Gino Picasso**

GKN



#### AGENDA

□ Introduction – Current Regulatory Outlook

- □ MFS and MMT 101 Mechanics
- Regulatory Context for MFI Uptake of MFS
- □ Mobile Financial Services Risk Matrix
- □ Back-office Capacity for MFI Uptake of MFS
- Outsourcing Options for MFIs
- Questions and Contact Information



#### Introduction: Current Regulatory Perceptions

- MFS comprise banking and telecom functions—Issue: "Is the stored value money?" or "Is the stored value (and associated payment capacity) a service?" Is the stored value a deposit? Who is primary regulatory—banking or telecom regulator?
- Development agenda -> unintended "benefit" of increasing public involvement in formal financial system; conversion of widely distributed consumer risk into concentrated systemic risk where value of funds *in transit* and *at rest (held in trust)* no longer insignificant.
- □ Lack of global standards -> proliferation of inconsistent operating environments and potential "weak points" in global financial system.
- Greater ability to identify and develop countermeasures for illicit and rent-seeking financial activities and increased security from "getting money off of the battlefield" are positive aspects; need to balance these with broader regulatory issues.



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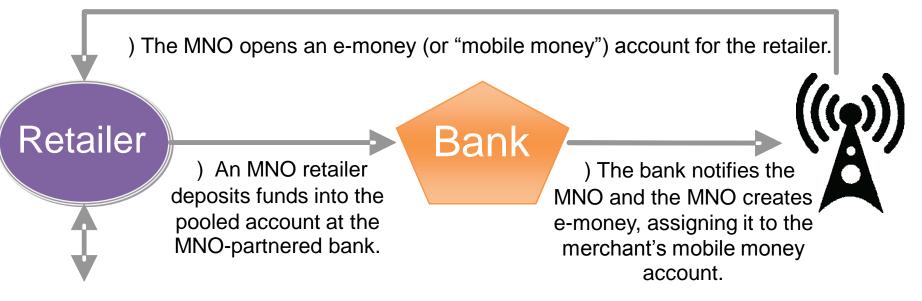
#### Mechanics of Mobile Money Transfers in MNO-led Model

- □ Step 1: An MNO retailer deposits real money funds into a pooled account held at the MNO partner bank.
- Step 2: The bank notifies the MNO of receipt of the funds and the MNO creates an equal amount of e-money which it then assigns to the merchant's mobile money account. The MNO retailer is now compensated for the funds it has surrendered to the bank.
- Step 3: Customers bring cash in to a retailer and exchange the case for an electronic or e-money equivalent, which the retailer transfers from his mobile money account (via SMS text message) to the customer's mobile phone. The customer is now compensated for the funds he has surrendered to the retailer (Zerzan 2010).



#### Mechanics of MMT in MNO-led model

The cash in the pooled bank account exactly matches the sum of all the e-money accounts in the system.





) Customers bring cash to a retailer; the retailer takes the cash and transfers e-money from his mobile money account to the customer's. The customer is now compensated.



#### Mobile Money Transactions "Live"

Here are some examples of how MMT works, both in a MNO- and bank-led model environment: <u>http://www.youtube/watch?v=nEZ30K5dBWU</u>.

The following three videos describe the MNO-led M-Pesa model found in Kenya.

<u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qj\_UrRRkUyU&NR=1</u>

<u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0Zq1cRRT1keature=relatded</u>

<u>http://microlinks.kdid.org/library/g-cash-rbap-mabs-electronic-wallet</u>. (This video shows the mechanics of the bank-led (USAID-supported) rural MABS MMT model in the Philippines.)



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## Regulatory Context for MFI Uptake of MFS

- MFIs bear direct and contingent liabilities for any illicit funds flowing through their payments "pipes," including within a third-party outsource construct: Know Your Partners
- Within a stable policy environment, there are potentially many development opportunities:
  - Lower transaction cost
  - More efficient remittance flows
  - More efficient payment solutions for government and others with large, disperse payrolls (e.g. agricultural out growers)
  - Lower cost operations structures for MFIs (mobile disbursal and payment-though harder for groups)
  - operations for voucher schemes
- □ Just as all politics are local, all regulations are local: Know Your Regulations
- □ Tech associated with MFS is fast-evolving and complex, as are CP issues re to MFS
- □ What is an MFIs comparative advantage in any MFS partnership construct?



## Regulatory Issues Related to MFI Uptake of MFS/MMT

- Evidence of lack of capacity (human, technological, regulatory and enforcement) to monitor and supervise national MFS sectors, including client protection
- SaaS customers lack sophistication re the risks associated with reliance on cloudbased services provided by third parties
- Some governments have begun to exploit Internet and other technologies inherent within the MFS ecosystem as a way to repress dissent
- •
- Risk- vs. rules-based legal systems may determine the extent to which MFS can be undertaken within various countries (French legal code vs. British common law).
- Lack of a coordinated global approach toward MFS could expose "weak points" through which illicit funds can flow from the informal economies to the formal economies (and vice versa)



### Regulatory Issues Related to MFI Uptake of MFS/MMT

- An increasing number of emerging mobile phone-based payment systems rely upon outsourced Internet-based services for IT infrastructure maintaining accounts.
- The growing prevalence of such solutions introduces risks brought on by Internet or data center interruption; data access compromise; and/or business failure.
- Limited awareness that SaaS providers are often themselves outsourcing; limited warranties in contracts with Saas providers, in particular liability for data loss or service interruptions (ex: Amazon's 4/2011 platform crash)
- No clear plans for unwinding claims of mobile money account holders if service provider who operates the system were to be dissolved or forced into bankruptcy.
- SLAs typically don't identify these risk points, leaving parties to contracts (including donors) exposed to tech-based risks that may not be resolvable across jurisdictions



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### **Project Motivation**

- □ March 2009: USAID initiated a BizCLIR Assessment in Kenya.
- During the assessment, the opportunity for financial inclusion that mobile financial services opened was highlighted; however, the lack of regulatory infrastructure and competition was noted as a concern for long-term viability.
- A recommendation was made to promote four goals:
  - Limit systemic risk
  - □ Increase competition
  - □ Promote interoperability across providers
  - Promote interoperability across borders
- The 1<sup>st</sup> step was to be a white paper that considered the risks associated with MFS, looking not only at Kenya but other markets with different experiences.



#### USAID Project: Mobile Financial Services Risk Analysis

As part of G-20 Financial Inclusion Experts Group objective, USAID/EG identifies and develops the opportunities that the innovation of mobile payments presents for emerging markets. Specifically, USAID assists Central Banks and other regulators interested in the mobile ecosystem by:



- □ Identifying and classifying the risks associated with mobile payments by stakeholder group
- □ Identifying policy options and implications by risk
- □ Identifying market examples as a resource for regulators to consider
- □ MD provided technical input to project and brought in FRB/Atlanta expertise to project
- EG's two-year program partnered with experts from Booz Allen-Hamilton, in consultation with Kenya School of Monetary Studies and the Central Bank of Kenya



examples inform policymakers

#### The Matrix Identifies Risk Categorized by Stakeholder Group

								Comments
Mobile Financial Services Cepitalizing on the Opportunity by Ensuring Sustainability Mobile Financial Services Policy Matrix: Consumers							□ A core team of BAH and USAID	
L	#	<b>Risk</b> Potential customers cannot	Description When initially restitution for	Objective(s) Know Your Customer	Policy Options National ID artism:	Policy Implications  University removes solutilifor  University removes solutilifor  University removes solutilifor		technical experts worked with the Kenya School of Monetary Studies to develop a comprehensive
		acosar mobile zerment arvicas dus to habitor to prove his/her identitr.	mobile financial services (MFD), the inability of the service provider or its sensiti to adecuately work the identity and personal information of access to mobile perment services.	OCTCA/Customer Due Difference (CCDD) audiense to be set commensurate with the risk of the service. Subject to resultatory socronal and verification of implementation.	Autorities issue universal IDs, which are used for access to financial services Financial ID evidence in the absence of universal ID, financial service providers (as a consortia) offer a financial ID with similar characteristics are a universal ID, but only traued to customers after meetins standard nector NTC requirements (as, a customer's phone # and SIM could be used as basic form of identification) Could Ink in with an industry ID erstem established for ensuring certainty of Identity in credit bureaux, or with a tax ID erstem.	exclusion of those destrict service.   Burden on mational subtraines to institute universal ID programs may be unaffordable or berond the existing informatructure's last, isolational or collected casestor to enforce.   With no universal national ID, the financial according to other form of identity, which all customer and not other form of identity, which all customer and not other form of identity, which all customer and not other form of identity, which all customer and not other form of identity, which all customer and not on other form of identity, which all customer and not on the scene to; however, ther can set risk-based tiers to ensure access.  Coordination of various arivate actions the financial sector could work through the laskers association, socially while lasdership form the central back.		<ul> <li>stakeholder risk framework</li> <li>The framework examines various models, including both Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) and Bank led variants</li> </ul>
					Reculted KYC Resultements which leave implementation to institutions	Each institution can intercret the requirements, which may allow various constitutions and activity of the based time to ensure access.     Each individual bank must establish a collor that mests resultory requirement.     Relance on existing forms of Identification beaves can low, but difference in policies acress Institution creates access risk		For each risk, our analysis recommends various policy options and associated implications to help guide policymakers
					1	5/65/16 645/13 6H		An Appendix of detailed market

Mobile Policy Matrix v2.2

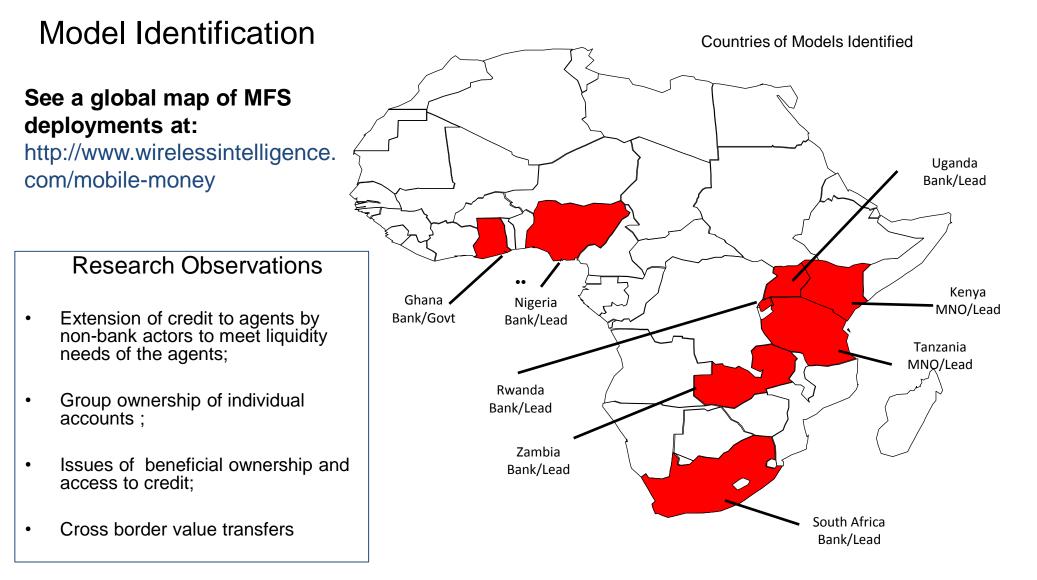
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#### Mobile Financial Services – Operating Models

Operating Model	Observations	Examples	
Bank	Primarily an additive model linked to an existing transactional account (e.g., debit card)		
Mobile Network Operator (MNO)	A cell phone company (MNO) service extends the wireless network messaging functionality to provide payment services enabling customers to remit funds to each other that can be settled through the MNO's agent network.	<b>Desa</b> Mkononi	
Hybrid Model	A combination of a bank, MNO or other third party that offers communications and financial transaction services that combine characteristics of both the pure bank and pure MNO models.	M-KESHO Banko	







#### Mobile Financial Services – Risk Definitions

- □ **Systemic**: A risk that could cause collapse of, or significant damage to, the financial system or a risk which results in adverse public perception, possibly leading to lack of confidence and worse case scenario, a "run" on the system.
- Operational: A risk which damages the ability of one of the stakeholders to effectively operate their business or a risk which results in a direct or indirect loss from failed internal processes, people, systems or external events
- Reputational: A risk that damages the image of one of the stakeholders, the mobile system, the financial system, or of a specific product
- □ Legal: A risk which could result in unforeseeable lawsuits, judgment or contracts that could disrupt or affect mobile financial services (MFS) business practices
- Liquidity: A risk that lessens the ability of a bank or MFS provider/agent to meet cash obligations upon demand
- □ International: A systemic risk (as defined above) that could have cross-border effect
- □ Contingent liability: US companies/persons must comply with OFAC standards, and are liable for any actions undertaken within any outsourcing context.



	Potential or existing customers cannot access mobile payment services due to inability to	
	prove his/her identity Customer's identity is stolen and used to open a mobile payment account fraudulently	Consumers
	Customer's account security credentials are improperly released (e.g., PIN number,	Merchants
	biometrics, and stolen phone/SIM)	

- > Customer is unable to efficiently dispute a transaction or account charge
- Customer cannot access cash from mobile money account due to lack of agent availability
- Customer cannot access cash from mobile money account due to lack of system availability
- Customer loses balance due to bank/provider not maintaining a 1:1 coverage requirement in the payment account trust fund
- Beneficial owner(s) of stored value and transactional accounts (mobile money) cannot be determined by authorities in the event of illicit account activity when group accounts are used

Consumers
Merchants
Agents
Account Providers
Trust Acct Holders
Payment Systems
National Regulators
Int'l Regulatory Issues



	Consumers
	Merchants
Merchants are unable to easily convert Mobile Money into cash, limiting their flexibility	Agents
to run their business / store	Account Providers
	Trust Acct Holders
Merchant could be restricted by a contract with a payment provider from accepting payments for or from another account provider	Payment Systems
	National Regulators
	Int'l Regulatory Issues

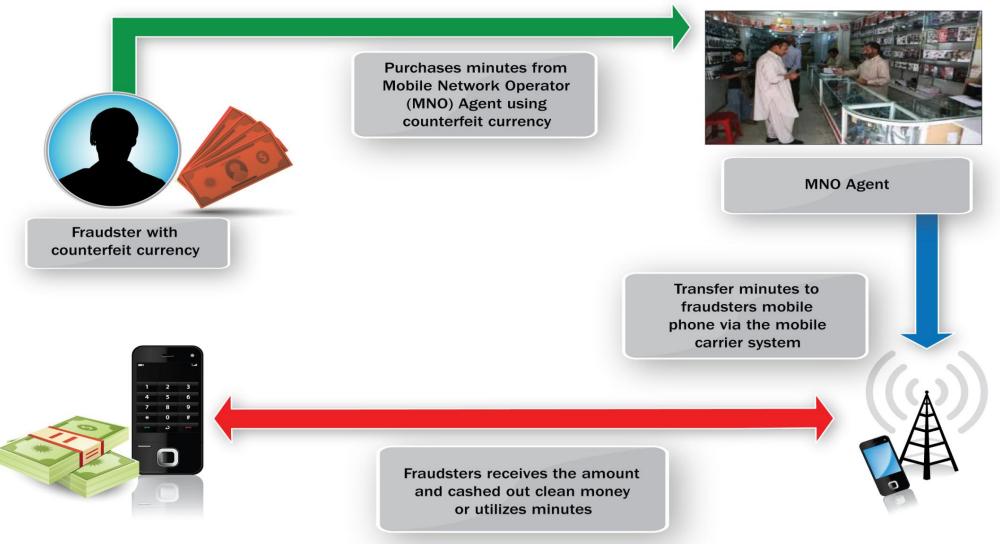


- Agent is unable to easily liquidate e-money inventory when the agency relationship is terminated
- Agent is robbed
- > Agent receives cash from client but fails to provide/transfer e-money
- Agent experiencing customer protests due to inability to cash out for clients
- > Agent takes in cash that proves to be counterfeit
- > Agent pays out cash that proves to be counterfeit

Consumers			
Merchants			
Agents			
Account Providers			
Trust Acct Holders			
Payment Systems			
National Regulators			
Int'l Regulatory Issues			



#### Example of laundering counterfeit currency via MFS





		Consumers
	Provider employee manipulates agent credit allowances, agent e-money balances, or customer e-money balances for financial gain	Merchants
$\succ$	Provider fails to adequately select, train and supervise agents	Agents
$\triangleright$	Provider does not meet required regulatory responsibilities in a regulated environment	Account Providers
$\triangleright$	Trust fund is inadequately funded	
$\succ$	Agent fraud untraceable due to poor records	Trust Acct Holders
$\triangleright$	System availability not be maintained by account provider	
$\triangleright$	Agents are consistently out of cash	Payment Systems
	Agent contracted to multiple actors (i.e. cell phone provider and a bank) with different regulatory requirements (e.g. KYC) does not meet responsibilities for one or more	National Regulators
		Int'l Regulatory Issues
		)



(		
		Consumers
		Merchants
	The reputation of the financial institution which holds the trust account for the mobile financial account provider is damaged due to their mismanagement of the trust	Agents
	account	Account Providers
	The reputation of the financial institution which holds the trust account for the mobile financial account provider is damaged due to its association with an account provider	Trust Acct Holders
•	whose payment system is poorly run	Payment Systems
		National Regulators
		Int'l Regulatory Issues



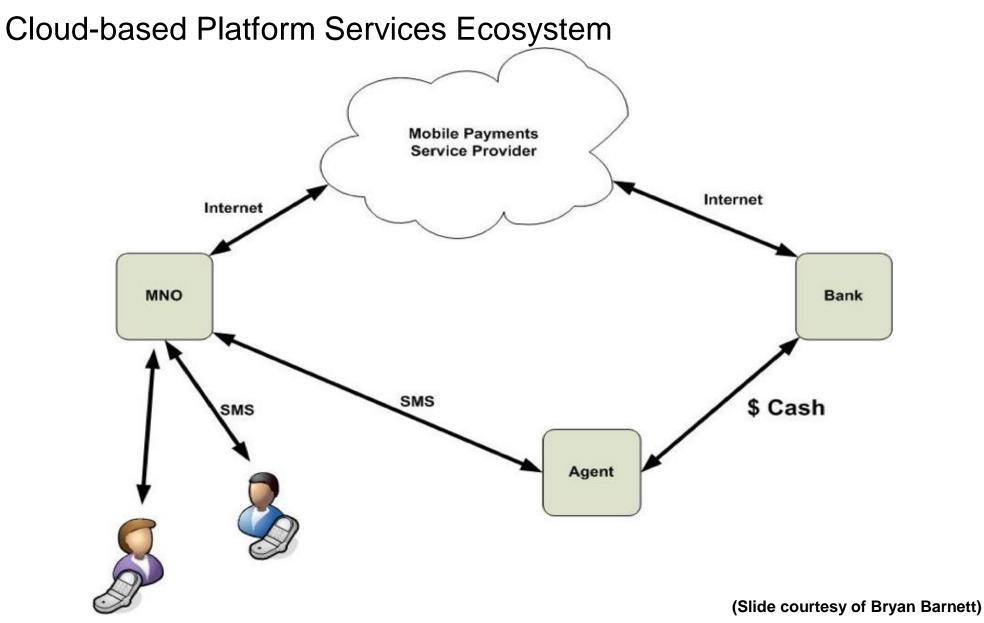
		Consumers
		Merchants
		Agents
	Commerce across providers unavailable due to lack of a switch (clearing and	Account Providers
S	settlement system)	Trust Acct Holders
		Payment Systems
		National Regulators
		Int'l Regulatory Issues



- Illicit financial activities enabled by weak KYC/CDD requirements/enforcement
- > Identification of illicit financial activities hampered by insufficient reporting requirements
- Illicit financial activities facilitated by unlicensed/ unmonitored agent network.
- Inadequate transaction records impair investigation of fraud or criminal activity
- National regulators and/or law enforcement authorities unable to effectively investigate fraud or criminal activity due to lack of operational support systems and human capacity
- National regulators and/or law enforcement authorities unable to effectively investigate fraud or criminal activity due to lack of authority.
- Ability to track/investigate illicit transactions made difficult by the number of financial intermediaries (e.g. agents, super agents, acct providers, banks managing trust accts) and potential lack of transparency between these parties may exacerbate challenges for regulators
- > Account provider suspends operations or collapses, disrupting service
- > Financial terrorists' target payment network to destabilize financial system

Consumers Merchants
Merchants
Agents
Account Providers
Trust Acct Holders
Payment Systems
National Regulators
Int'l Regulatory Issues







		Consumers
		Merchants
$\triangleright$	Heightened difficulty tracking and prosecuting illicit cross-border transactions given	Agents
	the new payment capability with a nascent regulatory framework and enforcement mechanisms	Account Providers
	Crease border novements through a mabile financial convice could be seen as	Trust Acct Holders
	Cross-border payments through a mobile financial service could be seen as bypassing a country's foreign exchange restrictions	Payment Systems
		National Regulators
		Int'l Regulatory Issues

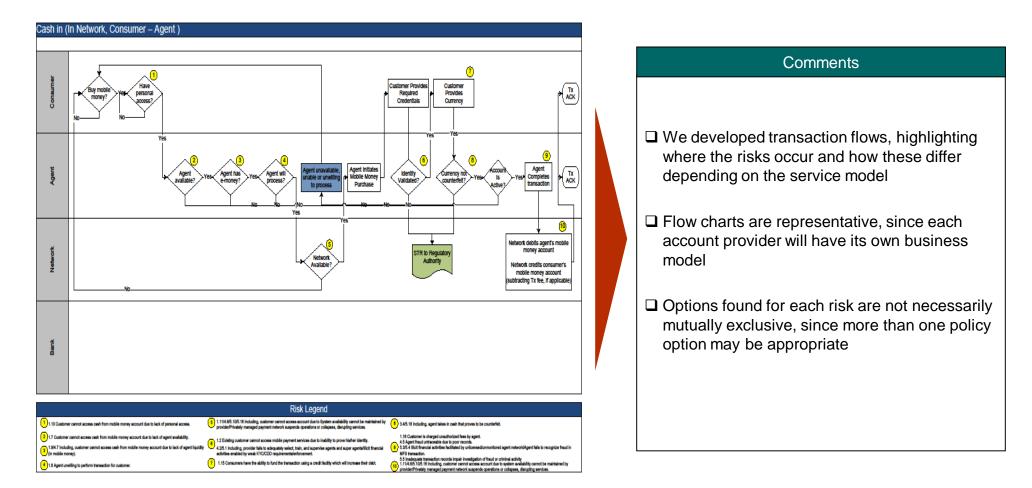


#### Policy Options and Implications Categorized by Stakeholder

Mobile Financial Services Copitalizing on the Opportunity by Ensuring Sustainability			Comments
#         Risk         Description         Objective(s)           L         I.I.         Potential customers cannot avrices mole current anvices due to indultor to arrow higher identity.         When infailer relations of the industity of the arrow for the identity.         Now Your Customer (CDD) and how to be an arrow for the industity of the arrow for the industity of the arrow for the industity of the arrow for th	Policy Options         Policy Implications           National Distance         Universality removes obtaintial for exclusion of those destricts arevice.           Authorities traves universal IDs, which are used for access to financial services         8 unden on national authorities to institute universal ID aroaran mar- be unifordable or beams of the easterne infrastructure's lead, technical creative constraints of the easterne infrastructure's lead, technical creative constraints of the easterne infrastructure's lead, technical creative constraints of the easterne and the second the easterne information of the easterne forms of identification a universal ID, but only insued to cuttomers after meantime arbitration to constraints (e.e.s. exutomer's othone 9 and Silf could be used as bates form of identification)         With no universal insteams the second the beakers actors in the financial actor could form of identification)           Could link in with an industry ID protein established for anyone, or with a tax ID orstem.         Coordination of various ervisa actors in the financial actor could work through the backers access in the financial actor could work through the backers access in the financial form the cuttal back.           Realisted KYC Resourcements which laves inclementation to institutions         Each institution can interpret the resourcement.           Realisted KYC Resourcements which laves inclementation to institutions         Each institution can interpret the resourcement.           Bench individual back must establish a color that meast resolution resolvement.         Each individual back must establish a color that meast resolution institution is access to low, but difference in policites scores institution creates to low, but differe	International         International           Payrentic         Systemic           None         Operational           None         Lignady           None         Non Model           None         Non Model           None         Non Model           None         Non Model           None         Non Model	<ul> <li>For each risk, our analysis suggests various policy options and associated implications to help guide policymakers (these are not exhaustive)</li> <li>Policy Options typically range from oversight or intervention at the National Regulator level – to graded action by the mid-tier of the mobile financial services ecosystem, usually the account provider- to no action or allowing a laissez faire mobile financial services environment</li> <li>Given the variances in risk, and capacity, across countries, we do not put forth a recommendation</li> </ul>
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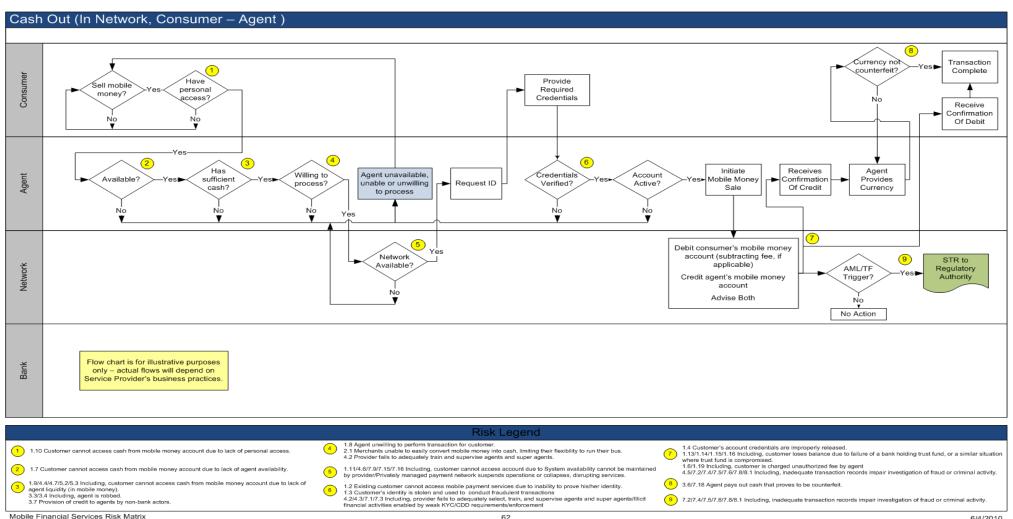


#### **Representative Payment Transaction Flows Integrate Risk Analysis**





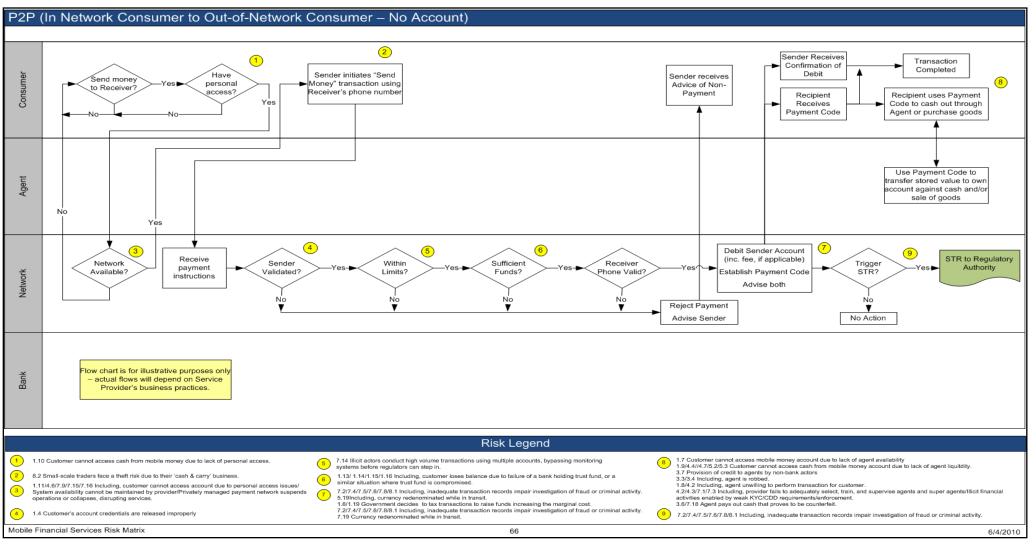
#### Cash Out – In Network, Consumer – MNO Agent



6/4/2010



#### P2P In Network to Out-of-Network Consumer - No Acct





## Appendix – Policy Table Expands Matrix Implications

#### 7.6. Risk (National Regulators):

"National regulators and/or law enforcement authorities unable to effectively investigate fraud or criminal activity due to lack of authority."

#### **Description:**

In many country contexts, the regulatory framework for mobile payment service provision has not been established. Thus, it is unclear whether the financial regulators have the authority to oversee the payment network, or if it is the responsibility of the telecommunications regulators, or if anyone has the requisite authority.

#### Policy Table:

Options	Implications
1. Empower through law/regulation either the financial regulator or telecommunications regulator as the sole regulatory authority over mobile payment system.	<ul> <li>Sole authority limits confusion regarding investigative authority.</li> <li>However, different issues may require different subject matter expertise which may not be resident in the sole regulator.</li> <li>Capacity/Budget of sole regulator may need to be adjusted to accommodate increased responsibility.</li> </ul>
2. Harmonize enforcement and penalty authority framework across Communications and Financial Services regulatory authorities.	<ul> <li>Harmonization process defines which regulator is responsible for which tasks, mitigating risks of issues "falling between the cracks" or of overlapping or contradictory activities.</li> <li>However, emerging risks may create confusion regarding responsibility.</li> <li>Authorities may lack capacity to implement across institutional silos.</li> </ul>
3. No Formal System (Ad hoc – on a case-by-case basis as determined).	• Lack of defined responsibility regarding specific risks will create confusion and uncovered areas, creating risk for the financial sector.



#### Appendix – Policy Narratives Expand upon Matrix Options

**Policy Narrative:** *FATF Recommendations 29-31* address adequate powers, adequate resources and effective mechanisms regarding human capacity of both appropriate authorities to monitor and mitigate illicit financial activity:

- Recommendation 29: Compliance by financial institutions Supervisors should be "authorized to compel production of any information from financial institutions that is relevant to monitoring such compliance, and to impose adequate administrative sanctions for failure to comply with such requirements."
- Recommendation 30: Countries, as well, should both provide their competent authorities involved in Anti Money Laundering (AML) and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) with sufficient "financial, human, and technical resources"
- Recommendation 31: Countries should ensure that "policy makers, the FIU, law enforcement and supervisors" can effectively and efficiently develop and implement AML and CFT policies



#### Appendix – Market Examples of MFS Implementation

#### Market Examples:

- Malawi: The Malawi FIU was established under the Money Laundering, Proceeds of Serious Crime and Terrorist Financing Act, Number 11 of 2006 and became operational in July 2007. The FIU is an autonomous national body which reports directly to the Malawi Minister of Finance. Under the auspices of the Act, the FIU is responsible for identifying the proceeds of serious crime and combating money laundering and terrorist financing activities...
- India: The law governing AML/CFT issues was promulgated in 2002 under the Prevention of Money Launder Act and applies to banks and financial institutions. ...The Financial Intelligence Unit of India (FIU-IND) was established by the government in 2004 as the central agency responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing, and disseminating information relating to suspicious financial transactions.



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# Why go Mobile?

## What are your Reasons?

- Better/more efficient Service?
- Better profits?
- Safety/Access of funds?
- Relevance in the Marketplace?
- Scalability?
- Competitive Advantage/first mover?



# **Policy Considerations**

## **Business Policy**

- Who Owns the customer problems?
- Is the MNO providing a channel or product?
- When does the business day end?

Agent network, Build or Join?

What Services will be provided?

How should the customer be educated and enticed?



# **Technology Platform**

## **Portfolio System Capabilities**

Electronic Interconnect with External Systems?

- Manual or electronic transactions
- Reconciliations
- Audit trails

7 x 24 Business transaction handling? Enterprise Customer DB or Branch level? Close of Business Handling?



# **Customer Education**

## **Customer Preparedness**

- Who do they trust?
- What other ways do they interact with you?
- How will product be introduced?
- What are the customer incentives to change?
- How will customers learn how to interact?
- When things go wrong, then what?



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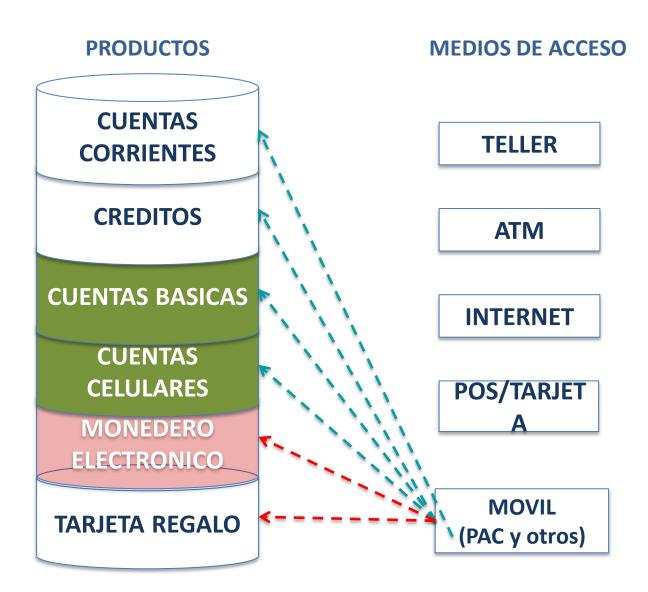
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#### Canales de Acceso a Productos Bancarios

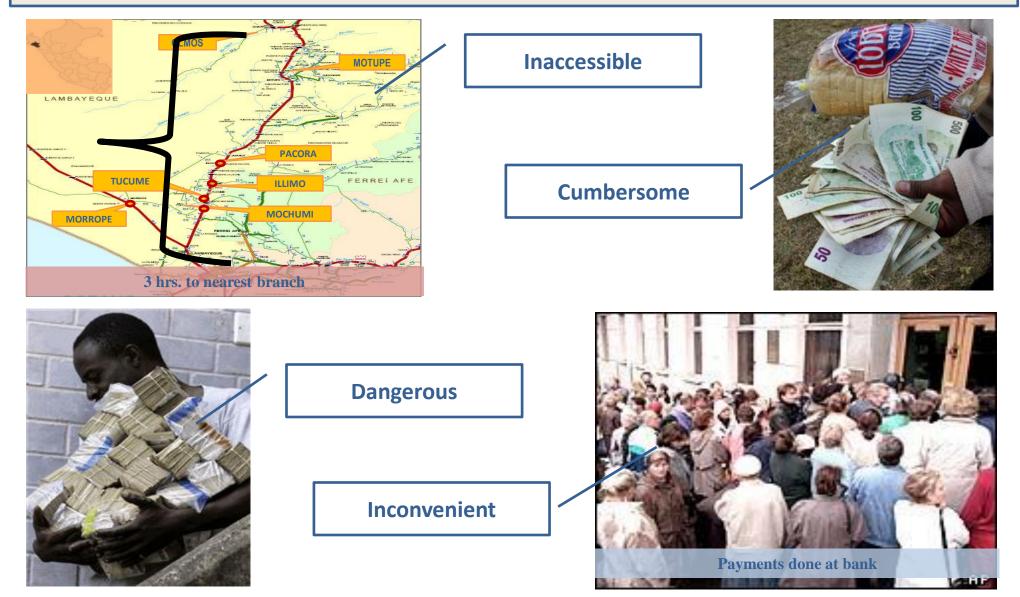




#### The Problem



#### **The Poor Need And Use Financial Services**



### Agente Corresponsal







#### **Observation**



#### Goods and Cash Find their Way to Almost Every Community







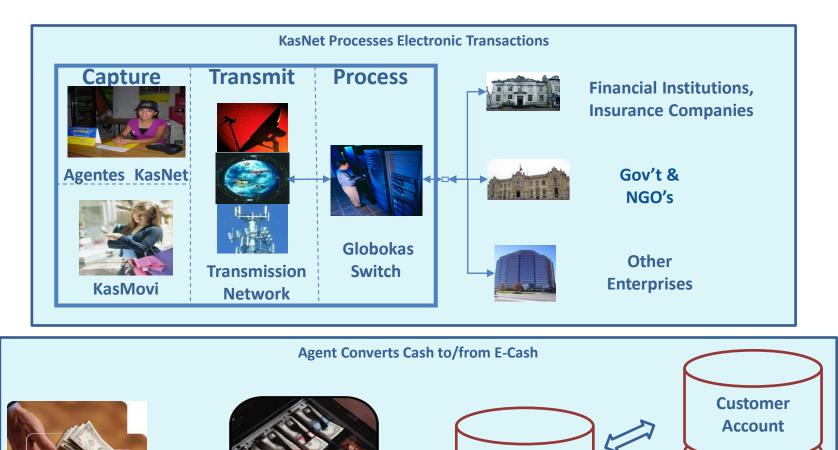


#### Solution: Leverage what exists



Institutional Account

#### GKN leverages mom and pop shops to perform cash-in/cash-out service, aka, Correspondent Agent Banking



KasNet Agent Account

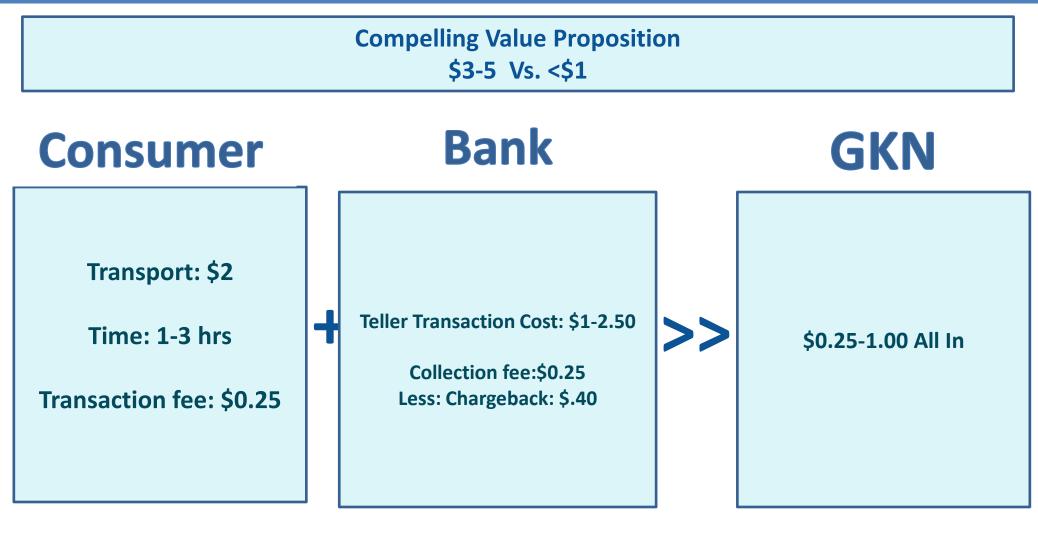


**GKN's Model Ensures Lowest Cost Delivery** 

- Agent Banking as an outsourced service to Banks, MFIs, *Telcos*, Enterprises, Government Agencies
- Shared platform (i.e., multibank) to ensure lowest cost, widest availability
- Lower barriers to entry
- Focus and specialization

#### **Economic Drivers**



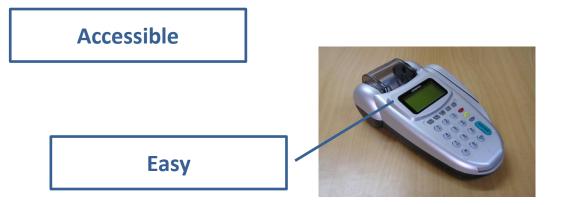


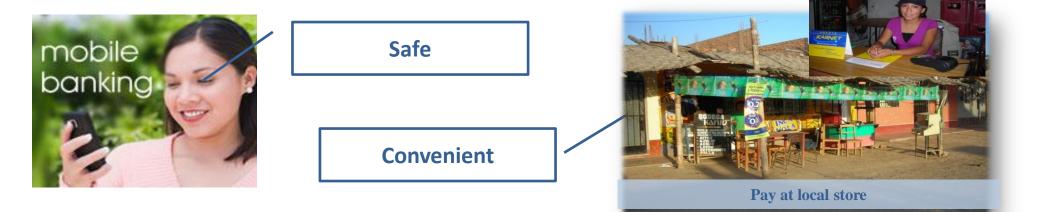
#### **GKN's Solution**



#### Our Services Make It Possible To Serve the Poor Well, Economically



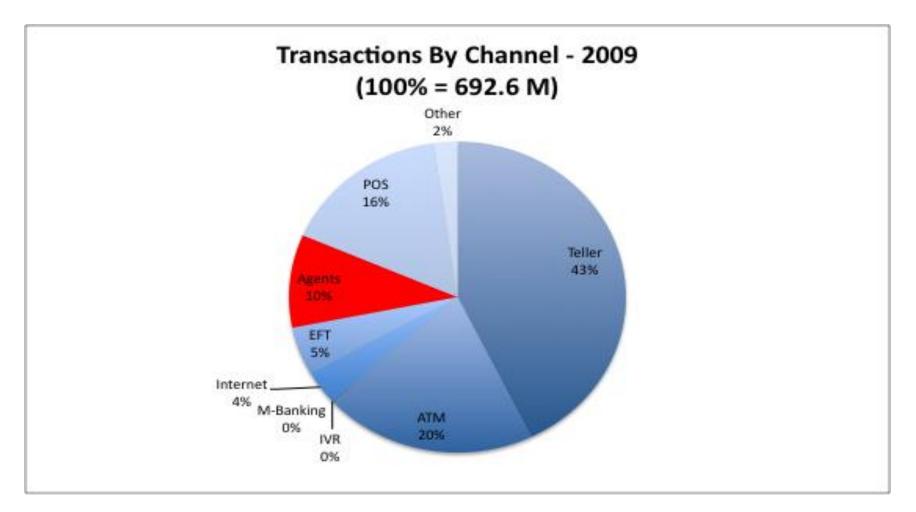




#### Agent Banking In Peru



**Correspondent Banking Agents Handled 10% of All Banking Transactions in Peru in 2009** 



#### Lessons Learned

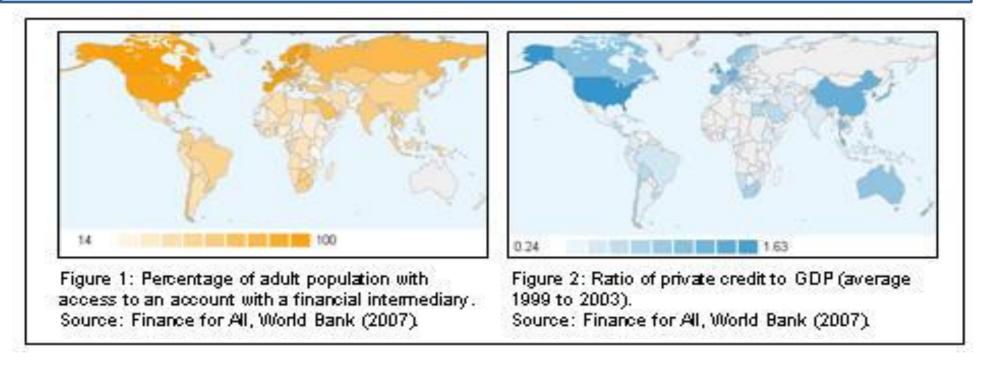


- Agents are quick to sign up
- Small % of agents equipped to be a "teller"
- Agent commitment dependent on "skin in the game"
- Agents can be 'evangelizers'
- Communities differ widely
- People from the community drive success

#### Market Demand



#### **Need Is Nearly Universal**



- Only one bank with more than 100,000 customers enough to get started
- Per country break-even achievable with only 65K active customers
- Platform easily replicable no need for significant investment until first customer signed



# **Microlinks.kdid.org**

#### Visit Microlinks to access resources from USAID's Mobile Financial Services Seminar Series

Join the upcoming Speakers Corner online discussion on November 29 – December 1 "Mobile Financial Services: Balancing Regulatory Risks and Financial Inclusion Opportunities"



**Opportunity** International GIVING THE POOR A WORKING CHANCE



# Thank You

MATRIX:

#### http://bizclir.com/galleries/publications/Mobile%20Financial%20 Services%20Risk%20Matrix%20July%202010.pdf

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Daryl Skoog Opportunity International

> Gino Picasso GKN