

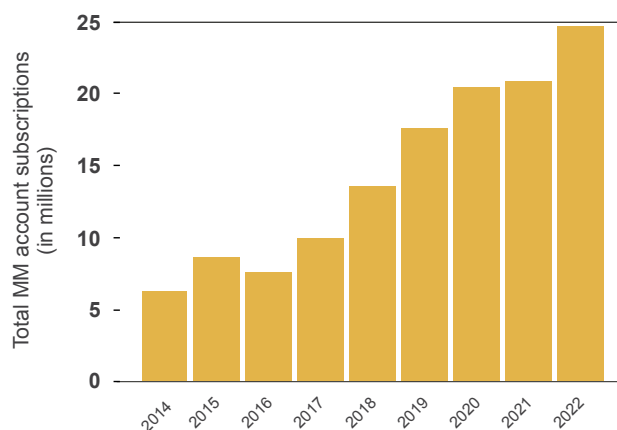
Taxation of digital financial services in Côte d'Ivoire

February 2024



1. Who uses digital financial services, and how much?

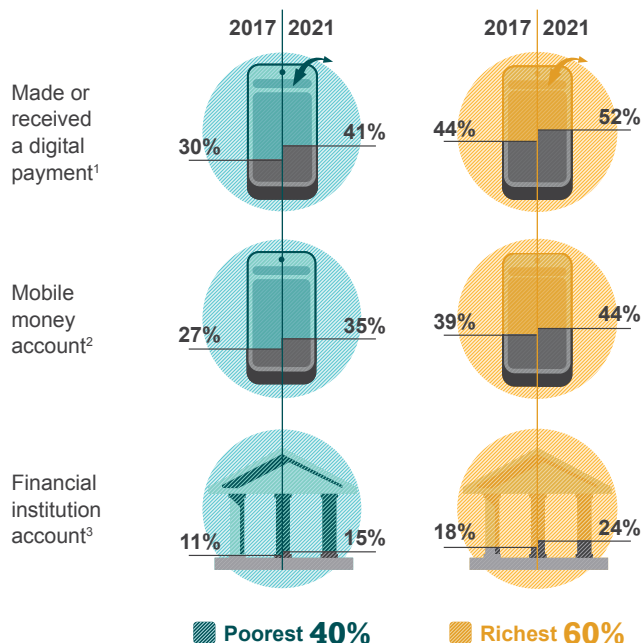
Digital financial services (DFS) are growing in Côte d'Ivoire



The number of mobile money (MM) account subscriptions has **increased every year from 2014 to 2022**

Source: Telecommunications/ICT Regulatory Authority of Côte d'Ivoire
- History of reports (artci.ci)

DFS usage and account ownership are growing in the poorest and richest segments

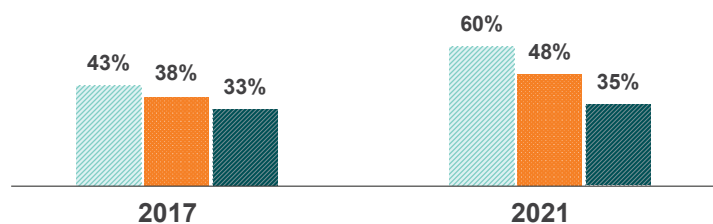


Source: 1, 2, 3. World Bank, *The Global Findex Database* (2021)

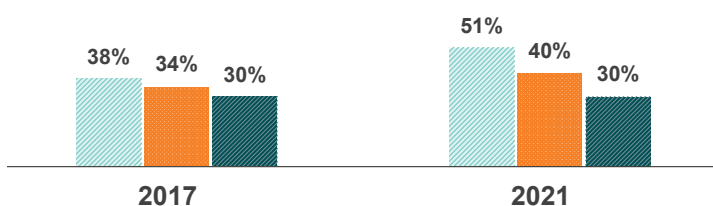
Digital payment and account use varies by user group, but overall a **greater increase has been seen among men than among women**



Adults using digital payments⁴



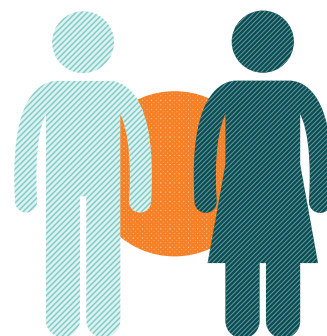
Adults using a mobile money account⁵



Adults using a financial institution account⁶



Men Total Adults Women



Note: responses are from participants aged 15 years and above

Source: 4, 5, 6. World Bank, *The Global Findex Database* (2021)

2. How are digital financial services taxed?

Côte d'Ivoire applies VAT on **money transfer fees** charged by banking and non-banking institutions, and a special tax on banking and financial activities on **fees and commissions by banks**



Rate

10%

Tax

Tax on banking and financial activities (except for money transfer operations) applied to bank services rendered¹. The tax charged by banks to companies is fully deductible from output value-added tax (VAT)

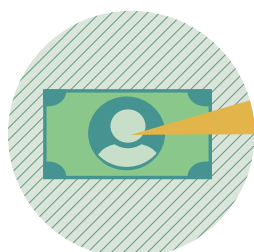


18%

Value-added tax (VAT) on money transfer operations payable to both banking and non-banking institutions²

In the third quarter of **2023**, revenue collected from mobile money represented:

In **January 2019**, the government introduced new mobile money sector-specific taxes at **7.2%** on companies conducting money transfer operations by cell phone:⁴



4.6%
of the total turnover declared by telecom operators in Côte d'Ivoire³



7.2%

2% for rural digital development

0.2% for cultural expenditures

0.25% for combating fraud within the telecom industry

4.75% for general taxation

The **consumer of these services is not liable for these taxes**. The government made it clear that the operator cannot pass these taxes on to consumers.⁵

1. General Tax Code, Art. 395

2. General Tax Code, Art. 344

3. [Telecommunications/ICT Regulatory Authority of Côte d'Ivoire - History of reports \(artci.ci\), p. 17](#) (Répartition du chiffre d'affaires par service 3rd Quarter 2023)

4. General Tax Code, Arts. 1127, 1129 and 1130

5. Communiqué of the Direction Générale des Impôts, 7 February 2019, clarification on the application of taxes on money transfers by mobile phone

Disclaimer: This factsheet collects publicly available information on digital financial services and how they are taxed from a variety of sources. Its purpose is to inform but not to assess or comment on the efficacy of digital payments or taxes. The information expressed in this factsheet is compiled from sources believed to be reliable as of 31 January 2024. This factsheet supersedes any previous versions. If you are aware of any changes or inaccuracies, please notify us at icddigitax@ids.ac.uk.

ICTD's **DIGITAX Research Programme** aims to inform and guide governments and key stakeholders at the interface of digital financial services, digital IDs and tax. For up-to-date information on evolving tax regulations, visit ICTD's **DFS TaxMap**, a dynamic web portal in English and French tracking the diverse approaches to DFS taxation.

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