# Remittances and technology: the role of mobile money and branchless banking

**UNCTAD** 

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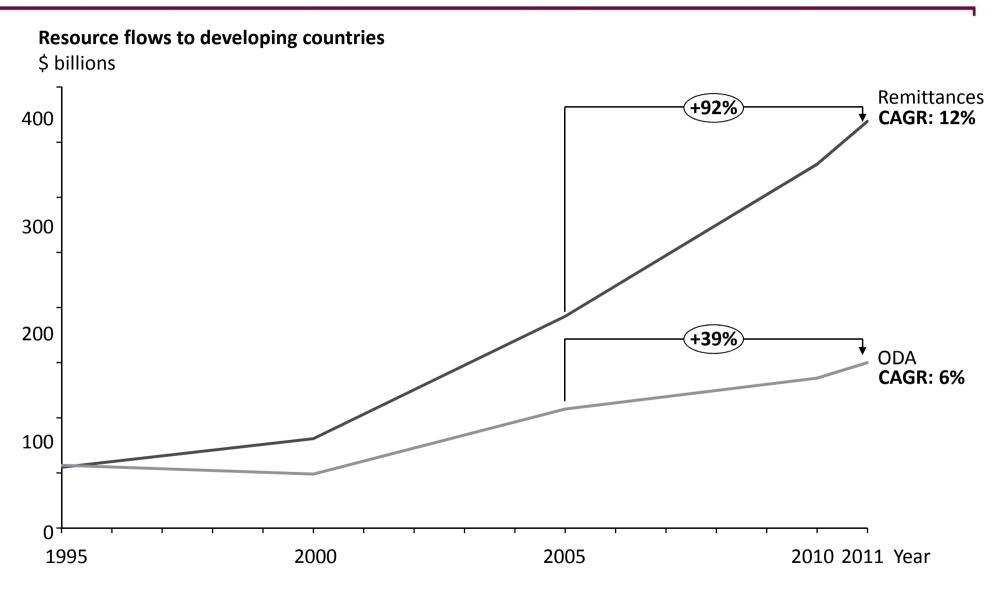
# Introduction



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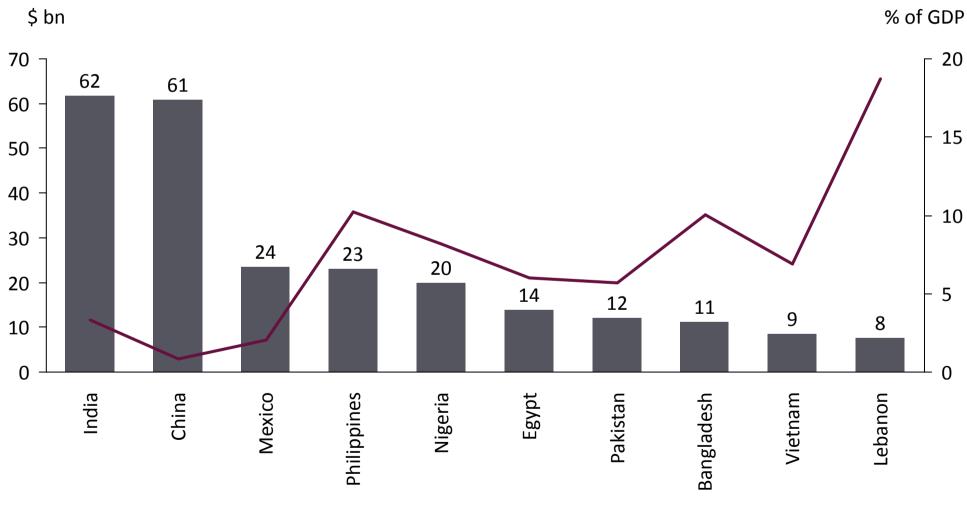
# Over the past 20 years, remittance flows have grown >10% per year



# They form a significant source of income for developing countries

## Global remittance inflows by destination country

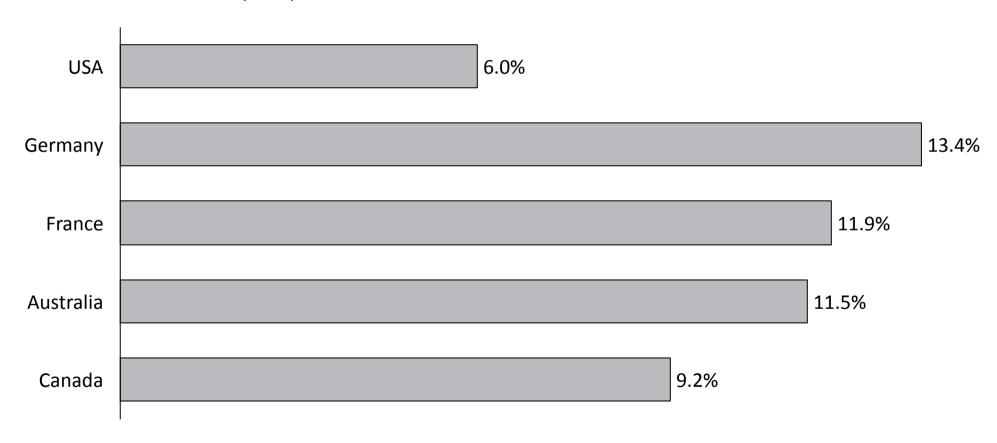
Top recipients by volume, \$ billions / as % of GDP



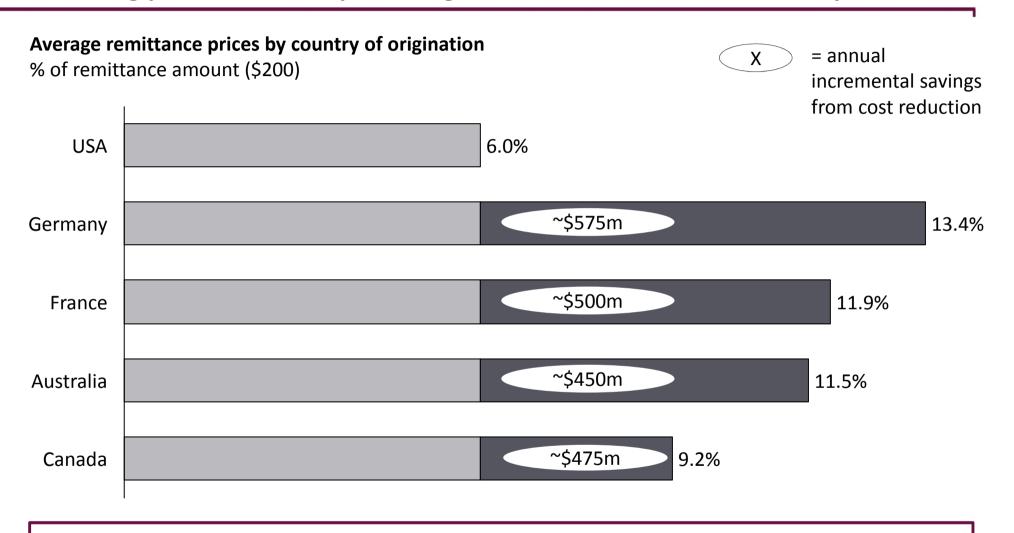
# Reducing prices in four top sending countries...

## Average remittance prices by country of origination

% of remittance amount (\$200)



# Reducing prices in four top sending countries could unlock ~\$2b a year



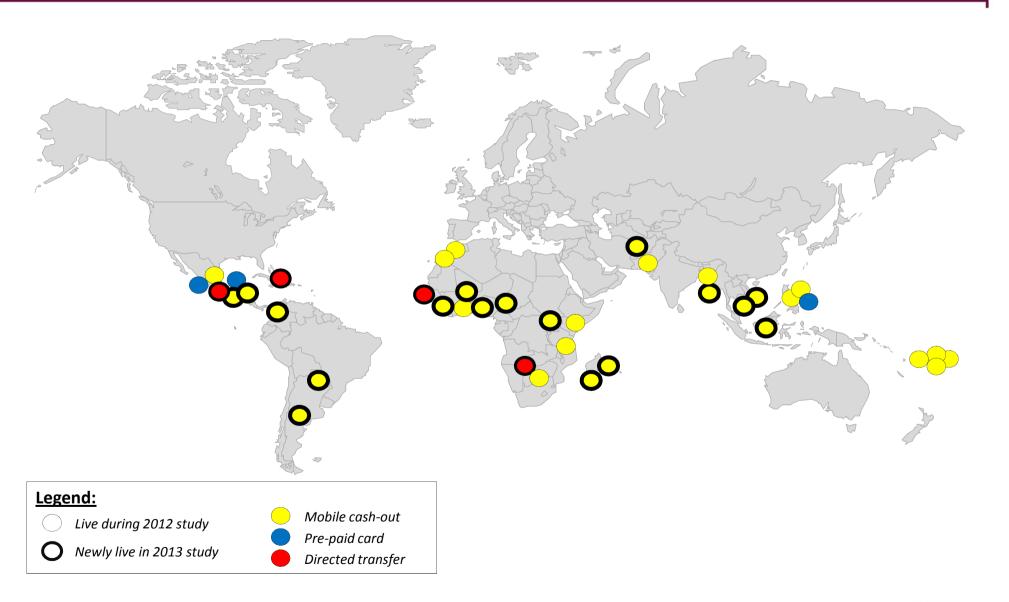
This could unlock >\$2 billion that would go directly into the pockets of recipients

# We focused research on technology-enabled models for "branchless banking"

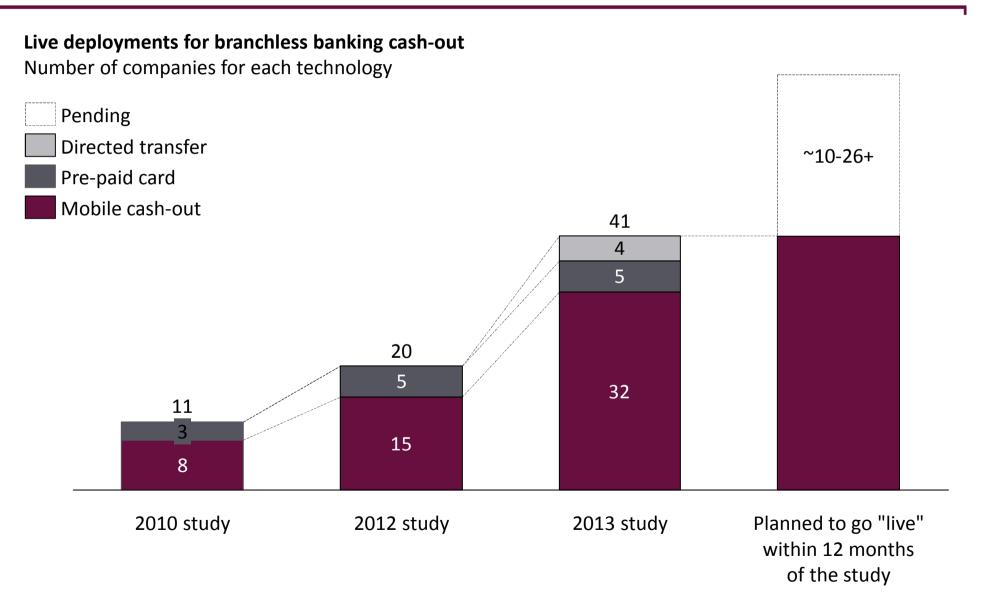
- **Branchless banking**
- Technology-enabled
- For cash or a basic necessity

- Mobile cash-out
- **Prepaid card**
- 3 Directed transfer

# Our study identified 41 active deployments in 2013



# There has been a steady increase of branchless banking deployments since 2010



# The role of partnerships in increasing deployment

**Partnerships with traditional** remittance providers





В

**Interoperability solution** 





## New technology and models of interaction







## The role of trust and reliability

"The Federal Reserve Board noted that significant factors in consumers' choices 'include trust in the provider, security... [and] reliability.""

- US Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Despite 82% global brand awareness, Western Union spends \$175 million per **year** on advertising (~3% of total revenue) – an average of \$1 million per country

Lower cost is not the emphasis of our marketing efforts because this does not establish trust and reliability, which is the primary concern of users."

-Mobile RSP



FAST, RELIABLE, WORLDWIDE MONEY TRANSFER

No mention of price as a competitive differentiator

"Trust is... the most important factor for success in the international remittance space."

-Online send-side deployment and settlement firm

### The tenuous link to access to finance

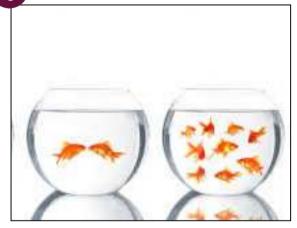
We want the service to be more consumercentric...there is a need for a fast, easy, low-cost service.

We don't track the share of banked to unbanked, but our user proportion roughly represents the country overall

We look at the bankable market as early adopters

## **Potential scenarios**

Consolidation



Disruptive technology scales



**High-margin** competition



## **Asante sana**



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