Highlighting the level of preparedness to support the uptake of mobile remittances

Frederic Ponsot
Senior Technical Specialist on Remittances, Diaspora and Inclusive Finance
Financing Facility for Remittances
IFAD
Mobile remittances as a development and business opportunity

- International mobile remittance costs are aligned with SDG target 10.c of 3%.
- Improved access in rural areas through MoMo agents, beyond brick and mortar cash points.
- Bring value and customers to the broader digital financial ecosystem.

**Mobile remittances represent less than 3% of global flows**

Only 40% of mobile money providers are offering international remittances.

*MobileRemit is a tool for private and public stakeholders to foster mobile remittances*
MobileRemit report

- Africa report with 7 focus countries.
- Provides an overview of mobile remittances in Africa with regional and country insights.
- Allows for cross-country comparisons through its 45-country index.

MobileRemit index

- Measures the level of country preparedness for mobile remittances.
- Combines regulatory, market readiness and inclusiveness variables to attribute a country score.
- The sources are made of national and global databases.
Receiving remittances through e-money is permitted by legislation.

RSPs are active in the market to receive remittances into mobile wallets.

The lack of fully flexible KYC and transaction limits for mobile money accounts holds back from a higher score.

Consumer funds are optimally safeguarded.

The very high uptake of mobile money is partially offset by bigger gender and rural gaps in mobile money account ownership, compared to other financial services.

Ghana is ranked 4th highest in Africa with a score of 89/100.
Key take-aways

- With a high uptake of mobile money, Ghana is well-positioned to take advantage of mobile-enabled international remittances.

- The effects of the recent electronic payment taxation may impede the growth of mobile remittances.

- Streamlining the mobile remittance value chain in the middle mile and opening up further the outbound market for mobile money providers could lower the cost of mobile remittances.