Readme for 2023 Q3 Listed Prices data

Financial Inclusion Program, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

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Contents

1 Description **1**

2 Folder contents **1**

3 Methodology **1**

3.1 Data Collection 1

3.2 Notes 2

1 Description

The data were collected under the Transaction Cost Index project, which in part measured the costs of mobile money transactions in 16 low- and middle-income countries. The data contain official prices charged by providers across different countries for different transaction types and values.

2 Folder contents

- `Listed Prices - 2023 Codebook.xlsx` - Contains variable names and labels
- `Listed Prices - 2023 Readme.pdf` (this document) - Contains project description and data collection methodology
- `Listed Prices - 2023 Quarter 3.xlsx` - Contains data on mobile money fees collected at the end of 2023 Q3 (September 2023)

3 Methodology

3.1 Data Collection

The data include 33 providers across 16 low- and middle-income countries in South America, Southeast Asia, and Africa. We include the largest providers in each country that make up 80% of market share (typically by number of accounts or transaction volume). In practice, this includes between one and three providers per country. The 16 countries were selected as part of the broader Transaction Cost Index project according to Gates Foundation priority and IPA Country Office presence.

Raw data for each provider were collected using three methods:

1. Webscraping in R for fees listed in HTML tables
2. Webscraping in R via PDF-to-HTML table conversion for fees listed in PDF tables
3. Compilation of data in Excel for fees not listed in tables (e.g. in FAQs, customer care inquiries, images, etc.)

The raw data were cleaned and standardized to only include data on 4 major transaction types in the final dataset: cash-in, cash-out, on-network person-to-person transfer, and off-network person-to-person transfer.

3.2 Notes

- For variables `fee USD`, `value min USD`, and `value max USD`, currency conversions were conducted using the 01/01/2023 spot rate per Oanda.com, a reliable foreign exchange website.
- Some values in `tax` are missing because it was difficult to identify the presence of a government tariff and/or disaggregate the tax from the total transaction fee. Often, providers did not report whether fees were inclusive of government tariffs, so other sources like news articles were consulted to verify.