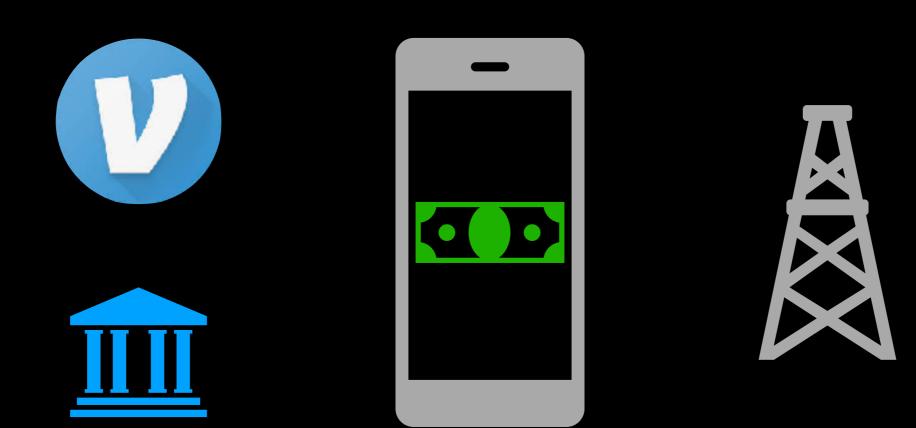
A Qualitative Exploration of Mobile Money in Ghana

Sarah Yu & Samia Ibtasam
Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science

Mobile Money for Financial Inclusion



Mobile Money for Financial Inclusion



Mobile Money for Financial Inclusion



Ghana's Mobile Money Scene

 4 Major Players - Tigo Cash, MTN Mobile Money, Airtel Money, Vodafone Cash









Forward-Thinking Regulatory Framework (2008, 2015)

Mobile Money Readiness



Financial Inclusion Insights: Ghana 2015

Mobile Money Readiness

Slow Uptake of Mobile Money

48% Financially Included

34% with Bank Accounts

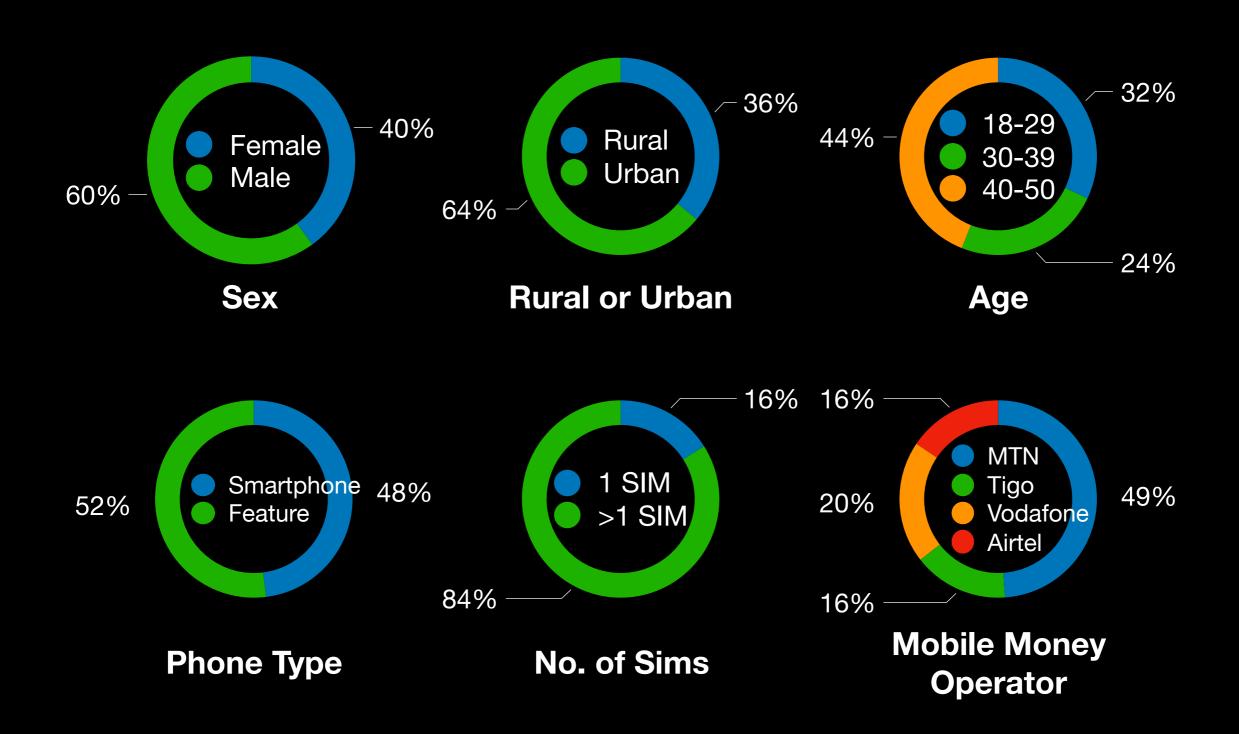
20% Mobile Money Account

17% Active (used in past 90 days)

Methodology

- 25 Semi-Structured Interviews, 5 Southern Ghanaian cities
 - Accra, Ada, Ho, Cape Coast, Kumasi
- Recruitment: Facilitated and Public Spaces

Participant Details



Observations & Discussion

Literature-Field Gap

Literature: Low Mobile Money Uptake/Usage

FII Survey, CGAP notes, Academic Literature sparse

Ghana: Mature MM Market

- Primarily P2P
- Merchant Payments available in Ho



There exists a gap between the state of the literature and the field because of the nature of mobile money and its market.

Financial Inclusion & Metrics

"Why aren't people using Bill Pay?"

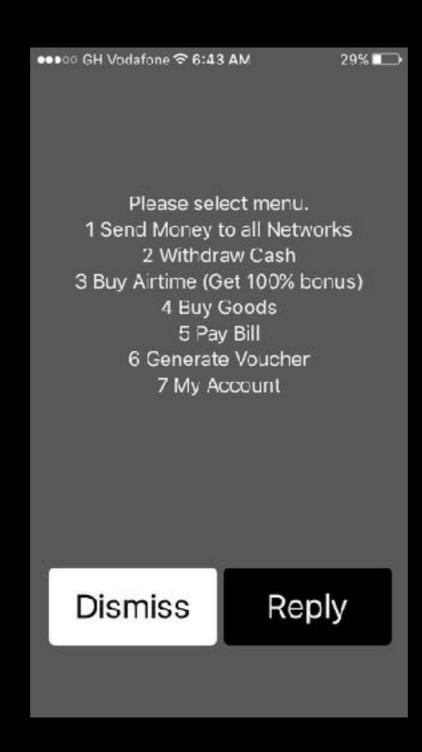
"People don't have a lot of bills to pay" (Student, Accra)

- Current metric: Total Cedis Transacted
- Proposed metric: Transactions digitized
 - Normalized by individual spending

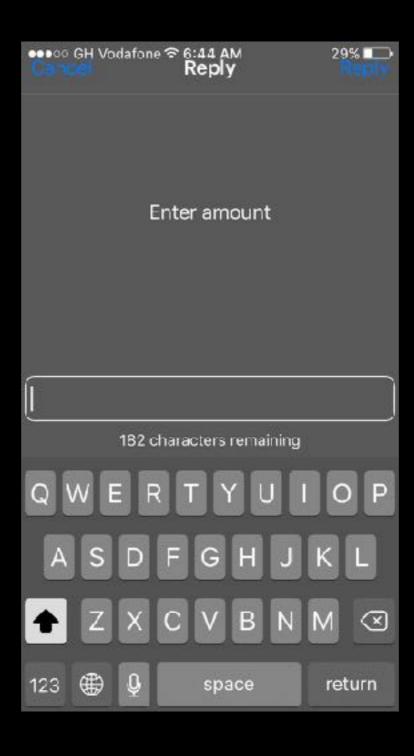
Mobile Money usage should be measured against existing financial practices to properly measure financial inclusion.

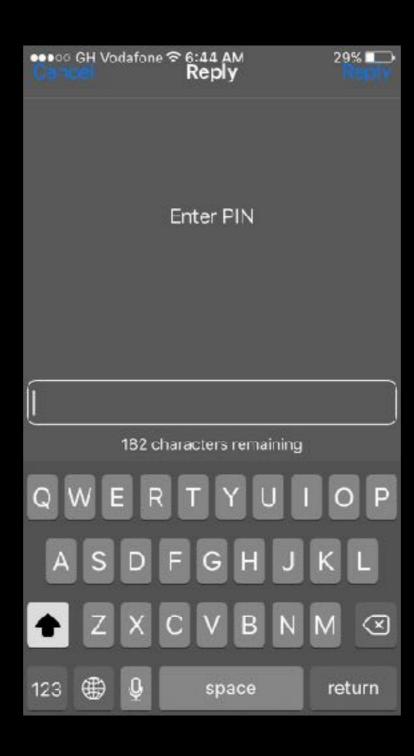
- 20-30 minutes during signup
 - New User Pamphlet
- Most learn from friends or use intermediaries
- Participants find apps easy to use
 - Most are one-service type users

While most participants do not remember the education, they find the apps easy to navigate and self-explanatory









Tariffs / Fees





Vodafone (left) and TigoCash (right) tariff tables

Users find tariffs / fees self-explanatory because they operate consistently within the same band of transfer amounts

Intermediaries & Accounts

Intermediaries

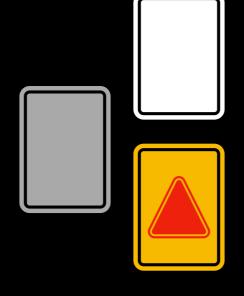
- Language Barrier: All apps are (currently) only offered in English
- Technology Barrier: Some users mainly relied on others for phone usage

Multiple Accounts

- Default and Backup/Emergency Accounts
- Actively suppressed used of MM account

Use Cases







Sending Money to Friends and Family

Out of Country Children School Fees Borrowing Money **Backup Accounts**

Emergency Accounts
Default Accounts

Business

Accept MM Payment MM Partern

Looking Forward

Value-Added Services



School Fees



Fair Business Transactions

Acknowledgements

Special Thanks to:

Samia Ibtasam
Richard Anderson
Trevor Perrier
Shrirang Mare
Sam Castle
Chris Rothschild
Araba Sey
UW Department of African Studies
UW DFSRG