

The role of digital transfers in the formalisation of migrant remittances

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Abstract

Surveys on migration across the continent have shown for a long time that the preferred way for migrants to send money to their origin countries has been informal. Formal remittance channels' barriers, such as financial costs, literacy, and documentation, exclude a large number of migrants as they do not suit their socio-demographic and economic characteristics. With the rise of digital coverage across the continent, accompanied by mobile phone companies' service innovation, migrants have now access to new ways of remitting. Several mobile phone companies are now involved in money transferring, offering easier, cheaper, and more accessible ways of sending money across countries. Other entirely digital services developed by diaspora members also offer cheaper ways of remitting across the continent, changing the decision-making of migrants when it comes to remitting. The development of these services will undoubtedly contribute to SDG 10. c, aiming to reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittances corridors with costs higher than 5%.

Biography

Tebkieta Alexandra Tapsoba is a Higher Institute for Population Sciences (ISSP in French) researcher at the University Joseph Ki-Zerbo in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. She holds a PhD in development economics from the University of Clermont Auvergne, France. Her research interests vary from economic migration and remittances to conflicts and forced migration. Being a development economist plays a crucial role in her research as it allows her to work in an interdisciplinary way with researchers from other disciplines like Sociology, Anthropology, Demography or Geography. She worked on several international migration projects, one of the latest being the Migration for Development and Equality (MIDEQ), a project looking at international migration within twelve countries organised in migration corridors across all continents.