// RESEARCH · QUARTERLY Q3 2026 published July 2026

The State of African Payment Rails

What 90 days of production money movement says about how fast money actually arrives in Africa: measured medians per rail and market, mobile money against banks, and what the old wires still cost.

● every figure measured · medians, never averages · sources linked in place
Live version: eversend.co/reports/african-payment-rails-q3-2026

47s
Fastest market median · Rwanda mobile money
median · last 90 days · production transfers

<95s
Every measured African mobile money rail, median
8 mobile money markets · same window

57s
Nigeria bank payouts over NIP, median
median · last 90 days · production transfers

18
Payout destination countries
coverage · successful send-money transfers

// FINDING 01

The one-minute continent.

Money sent to a mobile money wallet in Africa arrives, as a median, in about a minute. Not as a promise: as a measurement, across eight mobile money markets and 90 days of production transfers. The fastest market, Rwanda, posts a 47-second median, with 97% of payouts landing within five minutes.

The slowest measured mobile money median on the continent is Kenya's M-Pesa at 1.6 minutes, which is still faster than most domestic bank transfers in Europe. Every figure in this report is a median, never an average, so a handful of slow outliers cannot flatter or distort the number.

measured african rails · median delivery **MEASURED**

Rail	Providers	Median	≤5 min
🇷🇼 Rwanda · Mobile money	MTN MoMo · Airtel	47s	97% ≤5 min
🇿🇲 Zambia · Mobile money	MTN · Airtel	49s	89% ≤5 min
🇬🇭 Ghana · Mobile money	MTN · Telecel · AT	57s	88% ≤5 min
🇳🇬 Nigeria · Bank · NIP	every bank · fintech wallets	57s	91% ≤5 min
🇹🇿 Tanzania · Mobile money	M-Pesa · Tigo · Airtel	59s	87% ≤5 min
🇬🇭 Ghana · Bank transfer	GCB, Ecobank + majors	1 min	91% ≤5 min
🇺🇬 Uganda · Mobile money	MTN MoMo · Airtel	1.1 min	81% ≤5 min
🌍 West Africa (XOF) · Mo...	Orange · Wave · MTN · Moov	1.1 min	89% ≤5 min
🇨🇲 Cameroon (XAF) · Mob...	MTN MoMo · Orange	1.4 min	75% ≤5 min
🇰🇪 Kenya · Bank transfer	every major bank	1.5 min	87% ≤5 min
🇰🇪 Kenya · M-Pesa	any M-Pesa wallet	1.6 min	94% ≤5 min
🇺🇬 Uganda · Bank transfer	every major bank	2.6 min	72% ≤5 min

OUT OF AFRICA · THE HONEST SLOW END

🇪🇺 **Eurozone · Bank transf...** SEPA-reachable accounts		**3.2 min**	67% ≤5 min
🇬🇧 **United Kingdom · Bank...** UK bank accounts		**3.4 min**	50% ≤5 min

medians · rolling 90 days · successful production transfers · each row links the live page that carries the measurement

// FINDING 02

Mobile money usually wins. Ghana's banks argue back.

In most measured markets the wallet beats the bank: Uganda's mobile money median is 1.1 minutes against 2.6 minutes for its banks. But the gap is not a law of nature. In Ghana, bank payouts land within five minutes 90.6% of the time, edging out mobile money's 88.4%. Modern domestic rails close the gap fast.

The practical rule for anyone building payouts: route by market, not by ideology. The rail that reaches your recipient fastest differs by country, and the medians below are the routing table.

// FINDING 03

Where instant interbank rails exist, banks stop being slow.

Nigeria's NIP is the standout: a 57-second median to any bank account in the country, with 91% of payouts landing within five minutes. And because Nigeria's fintech wallets sit on bank rails, the same speed reaches OPay, Kuda and Moniepoint accounts. Where a real-time interbank network exists, the distinction between 'bank transfer' and 'instant payment' disappears.

// FINDING 04

The wire is still charged three times.

The contrast case remains the international wire: $25 to $50 in flat wire and lifting fees per payment, correspondent deductions taken from the principal in transit, and an FX markup of roughly 3.5% at a typical bank, hidden in the rate. On a $10,000 invoice that is about $400 of cost, most of it never itemized. The measured rails in this report deliver in seconds for a flat fee shown on the quote.

The full cost breakdown →

// COVERAGE

Eighteen countries, counted the hard way.

The coverage number in this report counts destination countries where successful send-money transfers have actually landed, not markets on a claims map. The grid below shows the measured markets and their wallets; China appears as it is: in integration, with no numbers until it carries production volume.

🇳🇬 Nigeria	NIP · 57s
🇰🇪 Kenya	M-Pesa · bank
🇺🇬 Uganda	MTN · Airtel · bank
🇬🇭 Ghana	MTN · Telecel · bank
🇹🇿 Tanzania	M-Pesa · Tigo · Airtel
🇷🇼 Rwanda	MTN · Airtel
🇨🇲 Cameroon	MTN · Orange
🇸🇳 Senegal	Orange · Wave
🇨🇮 Côte d'Ivoire	Orange · MTN · Wave
🇿🇲 Zambia	MTN · Airtel
🇨🇳 China	IN INTEGRATION

+ 8 more markets on the same endpoint

// METHODOLOGY

Methodology

- All delivery figures are medians over a rolling 90 days of successful production transfers on Eversend's rails, refreshed with the same data that powers the delivery estimates on this site.
- Medians, never averages: a median cannot be flattered by a few instant transfers or distorted by a few slow ones.
- “Within 5 minutes” percentages are measured over the same window and population.
- USD bank payouts are excluded from the measured table: that rail moved to a real-time network recently and we publish estimates nowhere in this report.
- Coverage counts only what has happened: the 18 payout destination countries are counted from successful send-money transfers that actually landed, not from a claims map.

Journalists and researchers: we can cut this data further (by market, rail or window) for stories and studies. Ask via our contact page and reference this report. **Contact us**.

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Payouts

Virtual Cards

Global Accounts

International Transfers

Multicurrency Wallets

Collections

Stablecoins

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vs Payoneer

vs Grey

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