

Level One Project

Today, there are more than 2 billion people who lack access to formal financial services. There are many reasons why this is so, but one of the main reasons is that financial service providers don't tend to see low-income populations as a profitable segment under their current business models. Digital financial services solutions could play an important role in changing this reality by developing new digital business models that can provide financial services to more people in a profitable way. However, the infrastructure to integrate and facilitate the emergence of these new innovative services is not always in place.



There are more than 300 mobile money deployments worldwide, but most of them are not fully interoperable, which means that users of one system cannot transact with users from other systems, making it less attractive for customers to participate in these platforms. The lack of interoperability, the costs, and some of the requirements of many of these new low-value payments have slowed uptake (only 35 mobile money systems have more than a million customers).

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been one of the organizations actively working to encourage new digital banking models that connect low-income populations to the digital finance ecosystem. Two years ago, they started The Level One Project, an initiative to build a shared vision of how to develop a national payment platform to lower the cost and increase the usage of financial inclusion initiatives.

The Level One Project advocates for an in-depth collaborative effort to develop a national payment system architecture that is fully interoperable, that fosters competition, and that makes mobile money solutions cheaper and more convenient for low-income populations.

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Series Overview

The objective of this four part series is to help participants develop a broader understanding of the principles that an inclusive and interoperable payment system should have in place to be both accessible and affordable for the majority.

The seminar is structured around a set of expert interviews centered on the basics of how a national switch for digital financial payments can function to be fully-interoperable and accessible for both the banked and the unbanked.

We cover topics such as co-opetition and industry collaboration and look at the role that Central Banks have to play.



Introduction:

Interoperable, scalable and low-cost payment systems

- Guidance on payment system development
- National switches; interoperability
- Co-opetition

Frontiers Market: Peru

The case of BIM: A national fully interoperable mobile money platform

- Modelo Perú
- BIM
- Industry collaboration

Frontiers Market: Jordan

The case of JoMoPay – Jordan Mobile Payment

- JoMoPay
- Use cases
- Central Bank role

Frontiers Market: SADC

The case of SIRESS – The SADC Integrated Regional Electronic Settlement

- SIRESS
- Cross border payments
- Regional switches

Who should attend this seminar?

This seminar has been developed for those working in both private and public sector who have an interest in understanding the foundations of how a central switch platform could be organized in such a way that it is both interoperable with, and inclusive of, the entire ecosystem in a market. This is based on the vision developed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) known as the Level One Project.

Participants who complete this seminar will:

- Gain a more detailed understanding of how digital financial systems should function to be fully-interoperable and accessible for both the banked and the unbanked.
- Gain insights into how such systems could be governed.
- Understand better how to implement a successful project of this magnitude from the country case examples.
- And explore some of the challenges that will need to be overcome.



Duration of seminar

4 modules self paced over 4 weeks



Cost of the seminar

This seminar is FREE



Delivery method

Delivered online

This seminar is delivered using DFI's digital



CAMPUS

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