Digital Inclusive Insurance Solutions Seminar

Session 1: Context and trends

Keynote presentation on the state of digital insurance | 18 May 2021

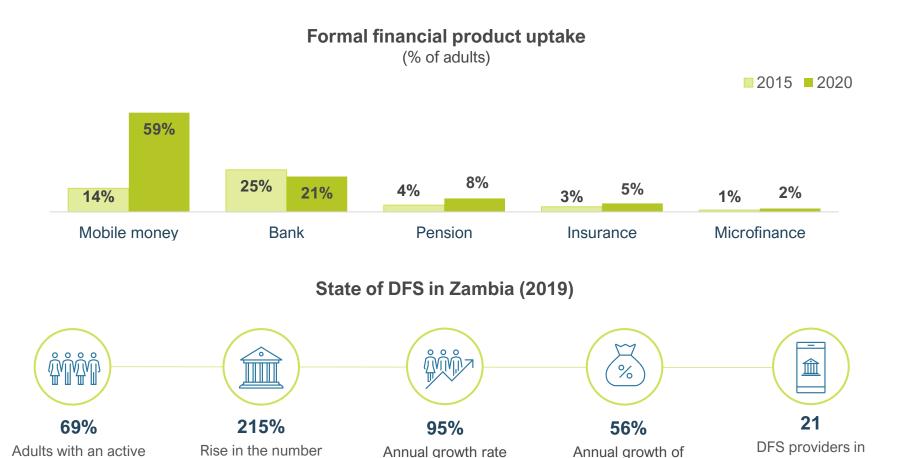
Lucia Schlemmer





Zambian financial inclusion landscape

Financial inclusion in Zambia has historically been low. However, expansion of digital financial services (DFS) has, and will continue to promote inclusion.



in the active agent

network



DFS account

of registered

merchant accounts

(from 2017 - 2019)

FinScope, 2020; UNCDF-MM4P and Bank of Zambia 2019.

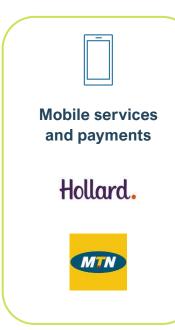
agent transaction

volume

the market

Digitalisation of insurance

Early examples of how technology has built platforms for collaboration:











Barriers to insurance digitalisation

Significant barriers need to be addressed if the industry is to survive.

Digital insurance made up less than 1% of DFS value and 0.3% of DFS volume in Zambia in 2019.

Common challenges limiting the growth of digital insurance solutions



Reliance on physical distribution: Across seven SSA markets, EY (2016) found that that agents and brokers accounted for 47% to 62% of policies based on premiums.



Poor infrastructure: Internet penetration in Zambia stands at **29.4%** in 2021, while only **40%** of the population had access to electricity in 2018.



Lack of digital skills and financial literacy: On average, there is one computer for every 119 children in the school system. In addition, only 10% of the population aged 25 – 54 had some form of tertiary qualification in 2017.



Regulatory restrictions: For example electronic commerce regulations and ability to use e-signatures in insurance sectors.



Digitalisation amid COVID-19

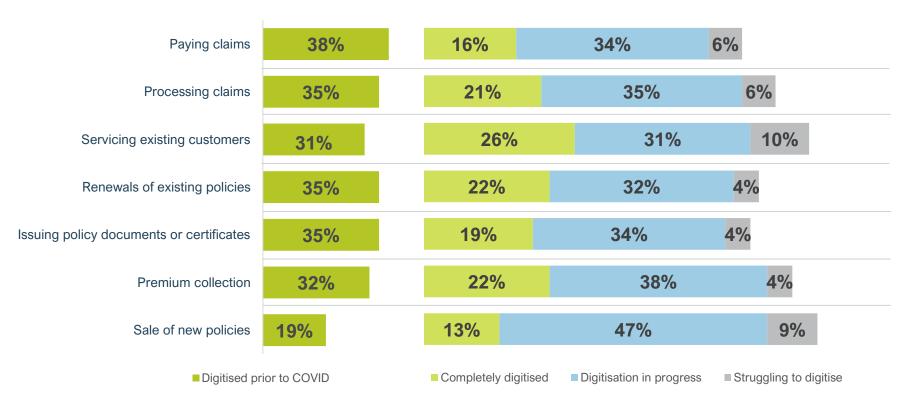


Wave of digitalisation amid COVID-19



~66% of respondents digitalised, or were in the process of digitalising, their operations as a result of COVID-19 across sub-Saharan Africa.

Extent of digitalisation across SSA



% of all respondents (insurers, insurtechs, microinsurers, associations and reinsurers)

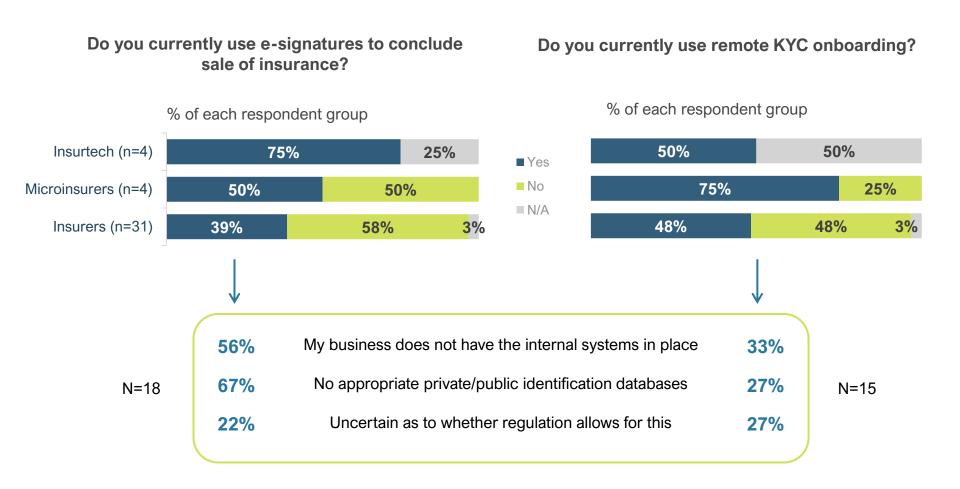
N=68



Source: FSD Africa, OESAI & Cenfri (2020)

Extent of digital contracting and remote onboarding

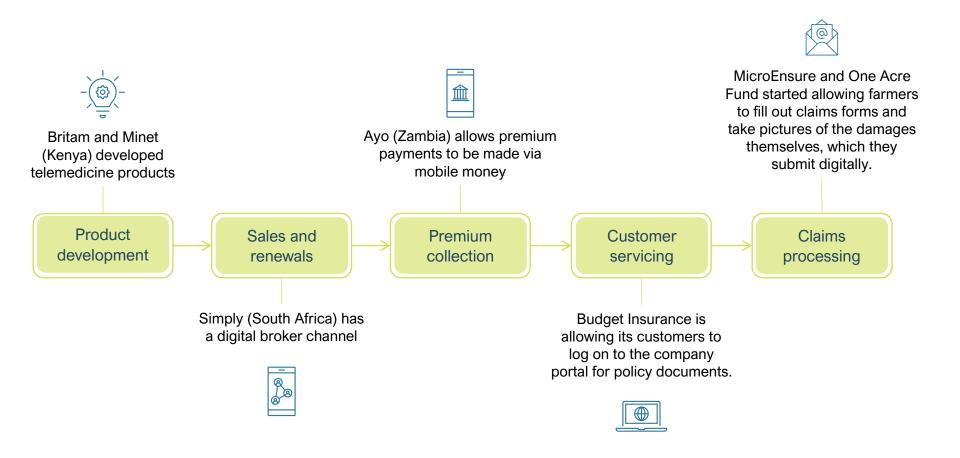
Variations in underwriters' ability to continue selling.





Source: FSD Africa, OESAI & Cenfri (2020)

Examples of digitalisation across the insurance value chain







About Cenfri

Cenfri is a global think-tank and non-profit enterprise that bridges the gap between insights and impact in the financial sector. Cenfri's people are driven by a vision of a world where all people live their financial lives optimally to enhance welfare and grow the economy. Its core focus is on generating insights that can inform policymakers, market players and donors who seek to unlock development outcomes through inclusive financial services and the financial sector more broadly.

