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#### Mobile Money-Driven Financial Inclusion and Financial Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa: Insights from Cameroon

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#### Abstract

While there has been increasing interest in the economic effects of mobile money in Sub-Saharan Africa, there is little empirical literature on the role of mobile money in the nexus between financial inclusion and financial resilience. This paper uses the 2017 Global Findex 1,000 representative sample collected in Cameroon to examine how mobile money affects people's ability to face negative shocks by coming up with an emergency fund in due time. Our results indicate that access to this financial inclusion tool increases the average ability of being resilient during an economic emergency, but the magnitude of this effect depends on whether the treatment-effects model implemented controls for the endogeneity of mobile money adoption or not. Whereas the average resilience ability if no one in the treated and the overall population had access to a mobile money account is considerably higher when disregarding endogeneity (0.47 vs. 0.37 and 0.62 vs. 0.09 respectively), our results demonstrate that the increase in financial resilience ability due to mobile money adoption is higher when controlling for endogeneity (0.74 vs. 0.053 and 0.60 vs. 0.07 respectively). Thus, disregarding endogeneity tend to underestimate the positive effect of this digital financial inclusion tool.

**Keywords**: financial inclusion; financial resilience; mobile money; endogenous treatment.

#### 1. Introduction

The importance of an inclusive financial sector is widely known in the international development community and is perceived with priority in many countries (Belayeth et al., 2019). In one of its communiqué, the G20 agreed to take the financial inclusion agenda forward and to assist countries, policymakers and stakeholders in focusing global efforts on measuring and sustainably tracking progress on access to financial services globally (Allen et al. 2016). Because financial exclusion captures a situation where there are individuals whose marginal benefit from accessing and using financial services exceeds the marginal cost, but who are excluded by barriers, many developing countries have publicly committed to promoting financial inclusion by establishing a National Financial Inclusion Strategy (Tomilova and Myra, 2018). These comprehensive public documents – that present a strategy developed at the national level to systematically accelerate the level of financial inclusion, have gained a great deal of traction in recent years and are becoming an increasingly common policy approach of many developing countries (AFI, 2015).

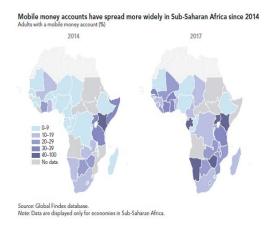
With financial inclusion, policy-makers hope that access to formal financial services will allow poor and low-income households in low and middleincome countries to enhance their welfare, grasp opportunities, mitigate shocks and ultimately escape poverty. In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the advent and rapid adoption of mobile money in both urban and rural areas, as well as the widespread availability of mobile phones<sup>1</sup> among the unbanked make mobile money-driven financial inclusion a significant component of these strategies<sup>2</sup>.

The 2017 Global Findex report reveals that Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the world where the share of adults with a mobile money account exceeds 10%. According to this report, within this region, the number of adults with a financial institution account has risen by a modest 4 percentage point since 2014, while the share with a mobile money account has grown roughly twice as fast – increasing by 9 percentage point. As highlighted in Figure 1 below, this increase differs widely across countries. In Cameroon for instance, the percentage of adults with a mobile money account has increased by 17.7 percentage point between 2014 and 2017.

 $<sup>^1</sup>$  According to GSMA (2018), mobile phone adoption in the region has grown rapidly in recent years; overall subscriber penetration reached 44% in 2017, up from just 25% at the start of this decade.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> We downloaded the National Financial Inclusion Strategies of some SSA countries from the World Bank's National Financial Inclusion Strategies Resource Center and performed a basic content analysis by highlighting the number of times "mobile money" or related expression was used.

Figure 1: Adults with a mobile money account, SSA



Flood et al. (2013) argue that mobile money services form a crucial link to the formal economy in developing countries for consumers by increasing levels of financial inclusion and overcoming inefficiencies of the financial infrastructure system. But, as the World Bank has noted in its 2014 report on global financial development, financial inclusion does not mean increasing access for the sake of access (World Bank, 2014).

This brings us to the crucial question as to whether financial inclusion promotes people's financial resilience ability. Defined by Global Findex as the ability to come up with an emergency fund of 1/20 of GNI per capita in local currency within a short period to face adverse shocks<sup>3</sup>, financial resilience also refers to the ability to maintain spending and living standards during an economic emergency (Klapper, 2019). Consistent with the two previous definitions, Marjolin et al. (2017) go on to argue that financial resilience is ultimately about people's ability to access and draw on internal capabilities and appropriate, acceptable and accessible external resources and supports in times of financial adversity. According to the World Bank, inclusive financial systems provide individuals with greater access to resources to meet their financial needs such as saving for retirement, investing in education, capitalizing on business opportunities or confronting shocks (World Bank, 2014).

While acknowledging its importance, Demirgüç-Kunt et al. (2018) remind us that financial inclusion is not an end in itself but rather a means to an end. These authors argue that when people have a safe place to save money as well as access to credit when needed, they are better able to manage financial risk.

<sup>3</sup> In 2017, Cameroon's GNI per capita in constant LCU was

637252 FCFA. 1/20 of such an amount is therefore 31862 FCFA.

Furthermore, Buckland (2018) goes so far as to suggest that finances need to be constructed to build financial resilience, not the other way around. Therefore, mobile money-driven financial inclusion needs to improve people's ability to face adverse shocks significantly. The quantitative empirical work on mobile money-driven financial inclusion falls into two categories. Studies which assess the determinants of mobile money adoption where proxies for financial inclusion via mobile money (account ownership and/or account usage) are the dependent variables (Allen et al., 2016; Wale & Makina, 2017; Chikalipah, 2017) and studies of the effects of mobile money-driven financial inclusion on microeconomic outcomes, where access to and/or usage of mobile money is not the dependent variable. Examples of the latter include whether mobile money promotes improved risk-sharing, food security, consumption, business profitability, saving, effective use of cash transfers, payments and microbusiness investment for low-income people (Apiors & Suzuki, 2018; Jack & Suri, 2014; Riley, 2018; Suri et al., 2012; Blumenstock et al., 2015; Suri & Jack, 2016; Morawczynski, 2009; Morawczynski & Pickens, 2009; Munyegera & Matsumoto; 2016a; Aker et al., 2016).

Previous studies tackling the question of whether mobile money-driven financial inclusion increases financial resilience in SSA, have mostly focused on how mobile money account ownership/use affects people's consumption when they experience a negative income shock and people's response to health shocks. Looking at the impacts of mobile money in Kenya, Jack & Suri (2014) found that households with M-PESA are better able to smooth risks, and their consumption is less sensitive to shocks. In a complementary work, Suri et al. (2012) look specifically at how M-PESA affects people's response to health shocks. They find that M-PESA users are able to spend more on medical expenses in the event of a health shock while also increasing expenses on food and maintaining their education expenditure. Nonuser households or households far from agents are unable to increase expenditure on food after the shock, decrease their nonfood subsistence expenditure, and might pull children out of school to finance health care costs. Riley (2018) examined the impact of mobile money on consumption after a rainfall shock such as flood or drought in Tanzania and found that after a villagelevel rainfall shock, it is only users of mobile money who are able to prevent a drop in their consumption.

Despite this growing body of studies, Jana Hamdan's interesting review of the recent literature on the impact of mobile money in developing countries (Hamdan, 2019) reveals that very little is known as to how mobile money affects people's ability to face negative shocks by coming up with an emergency fund. Additionally, previous studies have mostly focused on advanced mobile money markets such as Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Whether mobile money-driven financial inclusion promotes people's financial resilience ability in an emerging mobile money market such as that of Cameroon is not well understood.

Therefore, the objective of this study is to increase our understanding of the role of mobile money in the financial inclusion-financial resilience nexus in Sub-Saharan Africa by focusing on the case of Cameroon. It draws on and extends the financialization of the everyday theory (Roy, 2010; Van der Zwan, 2014), and tries to look at how access to mobile money affects people's ability to face negative shocks by coming up with an emergency fund in due time.

The everyday financialization is an important lens to assess financial inclusion interventions because it focuses on the vulnerabilities of ordinary people, people who only recently have been brought into the financial world (Buckland, 2018). Van der Zwan (2014) argues that the financialization of the everyday has facilitated the decline of the welfare state that previously provided "cradle to grave" services and has linked vulnerable people with capital markets in order to enable them to protect themselves from life's uncertainties. The author also argues that innovation and extension of information technology have enabled finances to reach the everyday level. One of the most exciting innovations in this regard is mobile money technology (Klapper, 2019). The everyday styled financialization, like that associated with Bangladesh-inspired microcredit or more recently with digital loans accessed and delivered through mobile phones, democratizes capital and, by extension, human well-being and development (Roy, 2010). But since financialization of the everyday theory does not provide a framework to assess the impact of the increase of finances in daily life on human well-being, what is needed for this is a theory of human well-being.

Following Buckland (2018), this study extends the everyday financialization theory by drawing on the human capabilities approach of Sen (1999) and

Nussbaum (2006). Financialization proponents may argue that more finances in daily life – through the expanding availability of financial products and the growing demand for them - is better, but scholars of human well-being understand that financialization is only a means but that the end is human improvement. As Sen (1999) and Nussbaum (2006) go on to argue that improved well-being is about removing obstacles that constrain people from achieving their capabilities, Klapper (2019) reminds us that alongside the global poor is a much larger group of people who are just an emergency away from the poverty line. For them, the importance of an inclusive financial system is closely related to its ability to ensure that they get more of the money that they need when they need it. That is, when they are facing an economic emergency that can push them and their families into destitution.

In terms of political economic theory, this study is rooted in a reform market approach (Buckland 2018). That is to say, given that markets are currently the most prominent way to organize the economy but often fail to deliver on important human outcomes, a strong state and civil society response is needed. Financial exclusion falls within this configuration since it captures a situation where there are individuals whose marginal benefit from accessing and using financial services exceeds the marginal cost, but who are excluded by barriers (Allen et al. 2012). When market failure occurs, governments often step in to directly or indirectly provide services, or to change the behavior of businesses and individuals through regulation. Mobile moneydriven financial inclusion interventions can therefore be seen as a reformist process driven primary by the state and inter-state actors that seek to bring financially excluded people into the formal system to foster their financial well-being.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. In the next section we provide insights on mobile money services and distribution channels in Cameroon. In Section 3, we provide an in depth description of how our two concepts of interest (*financial resilience ability* and *mobile money-driven financial inclusion*) were computed and follow this with a discussion of our empirical framework in Section 4. In Section 5 we present our results, and we conclude in Section 6.

#### 2. Mobile Money Services and Distribution Channels in Cameroon

The mobile money revolution that started in Kenya in 2007 with the launch of M-PESA is now spreading worldwide, and Cameroon is no exception. In December 2009, the country's leading money transfer operator - Express Union, launched the first mobile money service in the country. About 10 years later, Cameroon has five active mobile money providers who compete nationwide. While banks and some microfinance institutions (MFIs) can directly request an authorization from the central bank authority to issue electronic money via cellphone (mobile money), Telco operators can only offer financial services by partnering with a commercial bank. Telco e-money providers in the CEMAC are therefore required to make reference to the name and logo of their partnering bank in any advertising concerning e-money activities. For instance, Orange must mention the name and logo of BICEC when advertising their mobile money service, while MTN is requested to mention the name and logo of Afriland First Bank.

Like in any other market, money transfer facilities are the most common service offered by mobile money providers alongside airtime pop-up. Coming in various types, these service enable people to transfer resources across a wider and more diverse network within the country and even above. In a typical P2P mobile money transfer, the amount is instantly transferred from the sender's account to the receiver's account and a short SMS is sent to both parties, indicating the amount of money transferred, the transaction reference identity as well as the new balance. In addition to using mobile money account to top up airtime, providers offer a wide range of payment facilities. Account holders can pay utility bills, products and services for selected providers as well as tuition fees. These various payment facilities make life simple as it enables consumers to save time and money.

	Money Transfer	Payment Facilities	Savings Facilities	Insurance Facilities	Credit Facilities	ROSCA Facilities
Orange Money	Yes	Yes	Wealth Storing	Yes	No direct facilities	Orange Tontine; Small business partner
MTN Mobile Money	Yes	Yes	Wealth Storing	No	No direct facilities	No direct facilities
EU Mobile Money	Yes	Yes	Wealth Storing	No	No direct facilities	No direct facilities
YUP	Yes	Yes	Wealth Storing	No	No direct facilities	No direct facilities
Nexttel Possa	Yes	Yes	Wealth Storing	No	No direct facilities	No direct facilities

Table 1: Mobile mone	y providers and services
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Despite the fact that mobile money providers in Cameroon are yet to offer interest-earning savings, they do offer a default solution to consumers that consists of storing wealth by depositing money in their mobile money accounts. Defining savings as simply having a balance of funds in one's mobile money account, the large agent network in both urban and rural areas makes it easy for account holders to save at their best convenience and to withdraw their savings whenever needed - provided that the regulatory ceilings are respected.

Some mobile money providers enable account holders to perform insurance-related operations right from their mobile phones. Such operations include insurance subscription, payment of the premium, and perception of damages. Orange Money (OM) account holders even perform their ROSCA/Savings Group activities – provided that the Association is duly registered and has opened and has fulfill Orange Cameroon requirements. Furthermore, customers using OM to manage small lucrative or fundraising activities in their local communities for friendly / family manifestations (event, tontines), can take advantage of Orange's small business partner offer. While with a classic OM account there is a maximum number of transfers and withdrawals per period (5/day; 15/week; 40/month), the small business partner feature makes it possible for account holders to bypass this restriction at a special pricing.

Mobile money rely on widespread availability of mobile phones and networks of agents to allow people to access financial services right from their cellphones. CGAP's CEO Greta Bull reminds us that technology and distribution are one of the four factors that are changing the landscape for financial inclusion. To access digital financial services, access to a mobile connection is important, but it is equally important to be able to convert cash to digital money and, at least for now, back into cash again. So mobile phones have been important in places like Kenya, but the real game changer has been the emergence of large and well-functioning agent networks. Until accounts are more widely available or people are willing to accept the leap into purely digital money, agents will remain a fact of life.

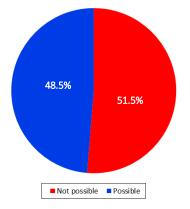
Cameroon has a relative well-functioning agent network made of local shops, MFIs, petrol stations, restaurants, mobile money kiosks and money transfer operators (MTOs). While some MFIs offer their own money transfer service, they have also partnered with mobile money providers to enable people to perform mobile money transactions in their branches. The Case of ACEP Cameroon offering both Orange money and MTN MoMo services is very relevant as this MFI has its own money transfer service – ACEP Cash. The case of Express Union too is of interest as this MTO offers both its mobile money service –EU Mobile Money – as well as that of Société Générale Cameroon–YUP. Other MTOs such as Express Exchange offers both Orange money and MTN MoMo services in addition to their own basic services.

These large distribution networks are the backbone of the mobile money technology as agents perform crucial tasks such as onboarding, supporting and educating thousands of customers on a daily basis. They also enable account holders to convert physical cash to digital value (cash-in) and, at least for now, back into cash again (cash-out). During the laps of time separating the cash-in and cash-out phases, the interface customers use to initiate transfers and payments directly on their mobile handsets (also known as the technical access channel), plays a crucial role too (GSMA, 2015). In Cameroon, while for some mobile money providers such as YUP, consumers can only access their services via an interface that displays solely on smartphones, others manage to enable both consumers with basic feature phones and smartphones to access their services.

# 3. Computing financial resilience ability and mobile money-driven financial inclusion

To better understand how financially resilient people around the world are to unexpected shocks, the 2017 Global Findex survey asked respondents whether or not it would be possible to come up with an amount equal to 1/20 of gross national income (GNI) per capita in local currency within the next month. Thus, to compute financial resilience ability, we use the question: "Now, imagine that you have an emergency and you need to pay [1/20 of GNI per capita in local currency]. Is it possible or not possible that you could come up with [1/20 of GNI per capita in local currency] within the NEXT MONTH?" On average, 48.5 percent of adults in the sample reported that it is possible to come up with such an amount in due time.

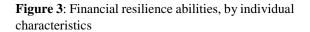
Figure 2: Financial resilience ability, Cameroon

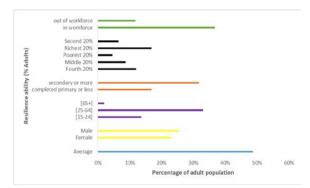


Source: Built from the 2017 GWP survey dataset

Not surprisingly, there is enormous variation in the financial resilience ability between individuals in the highest within-country income quintile (16.8%) and

those in the lowest income quintile (4.5%). The ability to face an adverse shocks by coming up with an emergency fund seems to increase sharply with employment status. The share of adults in the workforce who say they could cover an emergency expense (36.8%) is three times higher than the share of those out of workforce who said so (11.7%).





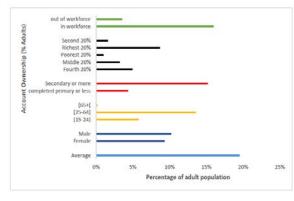
Source: Built from the 2017 GWP survey dataset

Adults between the ages of 25 and 64 are more likely to report that they could cover an emergency expense in due time. Even though the share of men who say they could come up with an emergency fund is higher than the share of women, the financial resilience gender gap is not that important here as compared to other countries.

In this study, the concept of mobile money-driven financial inclusion is used to emphasize the crucial role of mobile money in the process by which financially excluded people in Sub-Saharan Africa become integrated into the mainstream financial system for all of their financial service needs. The importance of mobile money can be captured by simply highlighting the number of times this word appears in the national financial inclusion strategies documents of countries who have established one. It can also be captured by looking at the share of adults with a mobile money account as compared to that of those with a financial institution account. To compute mobile money account ownership, we rely on the question: "An account can be used to save money, to make or receive payments, or to receive wages or financial help. Do you, either by yourself or together with someone else, currently have an account at a bank or another type of formal financial institution? Yes or no?"

At the country level, answers to this question where recorded in such a way that one could clearly distinguish mobile money accounts from financial institution accounts. On average, 19.5 percent of adults in our sample report having a mobile money account and for 9% of the overall sample, mobile money is their only account. Not surprisingly, there is some kind of variation in account penetration between individuals in the high within-country income quintile (8.7%) and those in the lowest income quintile (1%). Mobile money account ownership increases sharply with the employment status. Individuals in the workforce (16%) are almost five times as likely to own a mobile money account as individuals who are out of workforce (3.5%).

Figure 4: Mobile money account ownership, by individual characteristics



Source: Built from the 2017 GWP survey dataset

Furthermore, we find that in our sample, 10.2 percent of men report having a mobile money account, compared with 9.3 percent of women. Adults with a secondary education and more (15.2%) are, on average, almost four time as likely to have a mobile money account as those with a primary education or less (4.4%). Finally, adults between the ages of 25 and 64 are more likely to report having a mobile money account (13.6%) than younger adults (5.8%) and those aged 65 and over (0.2%).

Cameroon therefore offers an interesting opportunity to better understand how this financial inclusion tool which has gained a great deal of traction affects the financial resilience ability of individuals living in emerging mobile money markets.

#### 4. Methods

In this study, we use the 2017 Global Findex survey, and we focus on the 1,000 representative sample randomly collected from the civilian and non-institutionalized population aged 15 and above in Cameroon from February 21 to March 7, 2017. To examine the role of mobile money in the nexus between financial inclusion and financial resilience

in Cameroon, we, first of all, rely on the following probit model:

#### $\mathbf{Y}_i = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}\mathbf{M}_i + \mathbf{c}\mathbf{I}_i' + \mathbf{d}\mathbf{F}_i' + \mathbf{u}_i$

Where:  $Y_i$ , a dichotomous outcome variable capturing financial resilience ability as defined earlier in this paper.  $M_i$  is a dummy variable indicating whether or not respondent i have a mobile money account.  $I_i'$  is a vector representing a set of variables describing each respondent i, precisely his gender, age, educational attainment, employment status, income status and dummy variable that takes the value 1 if the respondent mentioned that he holds a financial institution account (**see annex 1**).  $F_i'$  is a vector representing respondents' savings and borrowing behaviors and  $u_i$ , the error term which is assumed to follow a Normal distribution.

We examined whether parameter **b** is statistically significantly different from zero. Since individuals may self-select<sup>4</sup> themselves as owning a mobile money account, variable **M** may be endogenous. Account holders may be people who naturally have an affinity toward adopting new products quickly. Furthermore, it may be the case that not all the variables common to both mobile money adoption and financial resilience ability are observables. For example, participants with mobile money account may be people who are more kind to maintaining informal social networks from which they can draw upon during adverse events, or may be more prompt to pledging future labor in return for advance wages when times are tough.

Running an IV regression would have been a good approach to account for the endogeneity of mobile money adoption, but we did not find a good instrument in the Global Findex dataset. As a result, we employed a treatment-effects model that controls for endogeneity using a control-function approach<sup>5</sup> (Wooldridge, 2010). Endogenous treatment-effects models are appropriate whenever the conditional independence assumption is violated – due to the fact that not all variables that affect both treatment assignment and outcomes are observables.

The treatment-effects model adopted in this study is estimated with Stata 15 through *eteffects* commands. The "*aequations*" option is included in the *eteffects* syntax to report the coefficients of the treatments and outcome models. Like any other treatment-effects model, estimators implemented in *eteffects* properly deal with the fundamental appraisal problem that arises from the impossibility of observing what

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The presence of selec<sup>2</sup>tion-bias is verified by checking if there is a significant difference between the treated and the controlled groups. Results of the two-sample t-test are presented later on.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This method controls for endogeneity by including the residuals from the treatment-assignment model as a regressor in the models for the potential outcomes.

would have happened to a given person in a situation where they have access to mobile money and in the situation where they do not. But, unlike standard treatment-effects models, *eteffects* regressions control for endogeneity and can thus be used to consistently estimate the average treatment effect (ATE), the average treatment effect on the treated (ATET) as well as the potential-outcome means (POMs) under observable and unobservable selection.

The endogenous treatment-effects model is given by:

$$y_{i0} = E(y_{i0}|X_i) + \varepsilon_{i0} \tag{1}$$

$$y_{i1} = E(y_{i1}|X_i) + \varepsilon_{i1} \tag{2}$$

$$t_i = E(t_i | Z_i) + v_i \tag{3}$$

$$y_i = t_i y_{i1} + (1 - t_i) y_{i0} \tag{4}$$

$$E(\varepsilon_{ij}|x_i, z_i) = E(\varepsilon_{ij}|z_i) = E(\varepsilon_{ij}|x_i) = 0$$
<sup>(5)</sup>

$$E(\varepsilon_{ij}|t) \neq 0 \tag{6}$$

for 
$$j \in \{0,1\}$$

Where the subscript i denotes the individual level observations,  $y_{i1}$  is the potential outcome of receiving the treatment,  $y_{i0}$  is the potential outcome when the treatment is not received,  $t_i$  is the observed binary treatment, and  $y_i$  is the observed outcome. Each one of the potential outcomes is determined by its expected value conditional on a set of regressors  $X_i$  and an unobserved random component  $\varepsilon_{ij}$ , for  $j \in \{0,1\}$ . Similarly, the treatment is given by its expectation conditional on a set of regressors  $Z_i$ , which does not need to differ from  $X_i$  and an unobserved component  $v_i$  (see annex 1).

While equations (1)-(5) describe the parametric treatment-effects model, equation (6) adds endogeneity to the framework. It states that the unobservables in the potential-outcome equations are correlated to treatment status. Equations (3), (5), and (6) are the basis of the control-function estimator implemented by eteffects. Equation (5) states that the unobserved components in the potential outcome are independent of  $z_i$ . As a result, the correlation between  $t_i$  and the unobserved components must be equivalent to the correlation between  $\varepsilon_{ii}$  and  $v_i$ . Equation (3) is fitted using a probit estimator and  $\hat{v}_{l}$ is obtained as the difference between the treatment and our estimate of  $E(t_i|Z_i)$  and use the statistic to compute an estimate of  $E(y_{ij}|x_i, v_i, t_i)$  for  $j \in$  $\{0,1\}$ . Since our outcome model is set to be linear, we can write it as follow:

$$E(y_{ij}|x_i, v_i, t_i = j) = x'_i \beta_{1j} + v_i \beta_{2j}, \ j \in \{0, 1\}$$
(7)

The parameters of equations (3) and (7), and the ATE, ATET are estimated using the generalized method of moments (GMM). The moment equations used in GMM are the sample analogs of  $E\{w'_i\epsilon_i(\theta)\} = 0$ , where  $w_i$  are the instrument,  $\epsilon_i(\theta)$  are residuals, and  $\theta$  the parameters of the model. The moment conditions in the GMM estimation are given by:

$$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{\substack{i=1\\n}}^{n} x_{i}'(y_{i} - x_{i}'\widehat{\beta_{1j}} + \widehat{v_{i}}\widehat{\beta_{2j}})t_{i} = 0$$
(8)

$$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i'(y_i - x_i'\,\widehat{\beta_{1j}} + \widehat{v_i}\widehat{\beta_{2j}})(1 - t_i) = 0 \tag{9}$$

$$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} z_i' \left\{ t_i \frac{\emptyset(z_i'\hat{\pi})}{\Phi(z_i'\hat{\pi})} - (1-t_i) \frac{\emptyset(z_i'\hat{\pi})}{1-\Phi(z_i'\hat{\pi})} \right\} = 0$$
(10)

$$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} \{ (x_i'\beta_{10} + \hat{v}_i \widehat{\beta_{20}}) - \widehat{POM0} \} = 0$$
(11)

$$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left\{\left(x_{i}^{\prime}\beta_{11}+\widehat{v_{i}\beta_{21}}\right)-\widehat{POM0}-\widehat{ATE}\right\}=0$$
(12)

$$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left\{\left(x_{i}^{\prime}\beta_{11}+\widehat{v_{i}}\widehat{\beta_{21}}\right)\frac{n}{n_{t}}-\widehat{POM0}\frac{n}{n_{t}}-\widehat{ATET}\right\}=0$$
 (13)

Where  $\hat{v}_i = t_i - \Phi(z'_i \hat{\pi})$ , n, the number of observations, and  $\hat{\beta}_{11}$ ,  $\hat{\beta}_{10}$ ,  $\hat{\beta}_{21}$ ,  $\hat{\beta}_{20}$ ,  $\hat{\pi}$ ,  $\overline{ATE} \ \overline{ATET} \ \overline{POM0}$  are the parameters.

#### 5. Results

Before highlighting regression results, we provide some descriptive statistics as well as a comparison of our treatment and control groups in terms of the independent variables used in the econometric analysis.

1 9 DIA		1 100011	ntiva	ctatictice
I ADDC	4.	DUSUI	DUVC	statistics

Independent	Descriptive	Treatment	Control	p-value
variables	statistics	group	group	(t-test)
	(N=1000)	(N=195)	N=(805)	
	Socio-econ	omic characteri	stics	
	Mean: 33.3	Mean: 31.2	Mean:33.7	
Age	SD: 14.46	SD: 11.69	SD: 15.02	0.0113
0-	Min:15	Min:15	Min:15	
	Max:84	Max:84	Max:83	
Female	54.3%	47.69%	55.90%	0.0406
Primary educ	45.36%	22.16%	51%	0.0000
Second educ	52.52%	70.62%	48.12%	0.0000
Tertiary educ	2.12%	7.22%	0.88%	0.0010
Poorest 20%	15.1%	5.13%	17.52%	0.0000
Second 20%	18%	8.21%	20.37%	0.0000
Middle 20%	19.5%	16.41%	20.25%	0.2037
Fourth 20%	21.7%	25.13%	20.87%	0.2152
Richest 20%	25.7%	45.13%	20.99	0.0000
Fin_account	29.8%	53.85%	23.98%	0.0000
In workforce	71.2%	82.05%	68.57%	0.0000
	Savings and	borrowing pat	terns	
Saved	58.6%	81.54 %	53.04 %	0.0000
Borrowed	52.6%	66.15 %	49.32 %	0.0000

SD = standard deviation.

The two-sample t-test<sup>6</sup> performed on the 2017 Global Findex representative sample collected in Cameroon (N=1000) indicates that our treatment and control groups are significantly different along most indicators, though individuals from both groups who fall in the middle income quintile (16.41% versus 20.25%, p=0.2037) or in the second highest income quintile (25.13% versus 20.87%, p=0.2152) are not significantly different. While this unbalanced nature of the treatment and control groups with regards to the observables calls for the use of treatment-effects techniques, the Pearson chi-squared tests performed on a set of two-way tables to measure the association between the dependent variable (Financial resilience ability) and each independent variable reported in annex.1 seems to legitimate the use of a logit or probit regression because of their ability to control for many variables simultaneously.

#### • Results of the probit regression

The results from the basic probit regression (which includes mobile money account ownership as the only regressor), as well as those from the full regression (where I' and F' are controlled for), show that the coefficient for mobile money is positive and significant at 1% level (see annex 2).

Furthermore, the average marginal effect of mobile money account ownership from the full probit reveals that a 1% increase in mobile money adoption leads to a 16.5 percentage point increase in the likelihood of being financially resilient (p = 0.000,  $CI_{95\%} = 0.075$  to 0.256). The results also demonstrate that better saving patterns indicate more financial resilience as respondents who set aside money in the past were more likely to be financially resilient than those who do not save. Unlike saving patterns, to have borrowed money from any source and for any reason in the past 12 months tend to decrease the likelihood of being financially resilient. Age squared was introduced as an explanatory variable alongside age to capture the effect at differing ages, rather than assuming the impact is linear for all ages. Our results suggest that while the impact of age on the likelihood of being financially resilient is positive and significant, this effect is lessoned as people get older.

Surprisingly, despite the presumption that female respondents would find it more challenging to come up with an emergency fund within a short period, gender has no significant effect on financial resilience ability. Both the regression coefficient and the average marginal effect for this variable are negative, but they are not significant even at 10% level. Our results also show that being in the workforce turn out to reduce the likelihood of being financially resilient by 1.14 percentage point, but this effect is not significant. Since for a given country, the workforce is often defined as the people engaged in or available for work, the negative impact of this variable on the probability of being financially resilient may be due to the preeminence of unemployed people who are actively seeking for a paying work on those who are employed.

#### - Results of the treatment-effects regressions

After conditioning on a set of observable covariates in the models for treatment assignment and the potential outcomes while allowing some remaining unobservable components to affect both the treatment assignment and the potential outcomes following the model specified in the previous section (see annex 3), results obtained reveal that when no one in the population has access to mobile money, the average ability of being financially resilient is 0.37.

Fin-resilience	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	[95% Conf. Interval]
ATE mob_account (1 vs. 0)	0.746 **	0.32222	0.11523 1.37831
<b>POmean</b> mob_account (0)	0.372***	0.05408	0.26629 0.47830
ATET mob_account (1 vs. 0)	0.601**	0.26223	0.08746 1.11540
POmean mob_account (0)	0.099	0.26146	-0.41286 0.61205

model: Probit. Number of observations: 992.

This average financial resilience ability (ATE) would have been 0.75 higher if all individuals adopted mobile money than if none of them did. The results also suggest that among mobile money adopters, the average ability of being financially resilient would have been 0.099 if none of these individuals owned a mobile money account. For the population of individuals who have access to mobile money, the average resilience ability is 0.601 higher than if none of these individuals owned a mobile money account.

As highlighted in the previous section, we included the *aequations* option to report the coefficients of the treatment and outcome models. While the TME1 section of the output displays the coefficients for the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The Stata command ttest tests that an independent variable has the same mean within the two groups (in this case our treatment and control groups). diff = mean(0) - mean(1); if Pr(|T| > |t|) is  $\leq$ 

<sup>0.05,</sup> the null hypothesis (Ho: diff = 0) is rejected leading to the conclusion that there is a difference between sample means of the variable of interest (Ha: diff != 0).

treatment model, the OM0 and OM1 sections display coefficients of the outcome model for the untreated and treated groups respectively (see annex 3). The results attest that better saving patterns significantly increase the likelihood of being resilient during an economic emergency for both mobile money account holders and non-holders. Just like with the full probit regression, to have borrowed money from any source and for any reason in the past tend to decrease the likelihood of being financially resilient for both account holders and non-holders. This result can be explained by the fact borrowing to finance current needs or to face current shocks leads to an increase in debt-to-income ratio with detrimental effects on future indebtedness capacity. The coefficient of the outcome model related to gender reveals that in times of financial adversity, women will find it difficult to come up with an emergency fund - even though this coefficient is only significant for those without access to mobile money.

The control-function approach used in this study estimates the correlation between the unobservables of the treatment assignment and potential outcome models. If there is no correlation, then there is no endogeneity and estimating the average treatmenteffects using propensity score matching, nearest neighbor matching, or inverse probability weighted regression adjustment would have been more accurate. We therefore perform a Wald test to determine whether the estimated relationship between treatment-assignment and the potential outcome models are different from zero using Stata estat endogenous post-estimation command. Result reveals that the unobservable factors that affect mobile money adoption also mediate financial resilience ability.

[*chi2* (2) = 6.17; *Prob* > *chi2* = 0.0458]

We then compared the endogenous treatment-effects with those obtained if we ignore the endogeneity of mobile money adoption. Despite the fact that different techniques were used – Propensity score matching (PSM), Nearest neighbor matching (NNM), and Inverse probability weighted regression adjustment (IPWRA) –, below we only highlight the ATE and ATET obtained using the IPWRA estimator<sup>7</sup>. Results of the other techniques are displayed in **annex 3**.

As shown in Table 4, the average treatment-effects obtained after conditioning on a set of observable

covariates in the models for treatment assignment and the potential outcomes, while ignoring the endogeneity of the mobile money adoption assignment differ considerably from those reported in Table 3.

Fin-resilience	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	[95% Conf. Interval]
ATE mob_account (1 vs. 0)	0.053	0.04012	-0.02467 0.13260
POmean mob_account (0)	0.475***	0.01765	0.44039 0.50957
ATET mob_account (1 vs. 0)	0.076*	0.04102	-0.00377 0.15705
POmean mob_account (0)	0.624***	0.02796	0.56958 0.67920

 Table 4: teffects ipwra estimation

Note:\* = 1%, \*\* = 5%, \* = 10% of significance. Outcome model: Linear. Treatment model: Probit. Number of observations: 992.

Comparing results reported in these two tables, one can notice that both the average resilience ability when no one in the population have access to mobile money and the average resilience ability of the treated individuals if none of them owned a mobile money account are considerably higher when ignoring the presence of unobservables factors (0.47 vs. 0.37 and 0.62 vs. 0.09 respectively).

The comparison also reveals that the increase in the resilience ability due to mobile money adoption in the overall population as well as in the treated population is significantly higher when controlling for endogeneity (0.74 vs. 0.053 and 0.60 vs. 0.07 respectively). Thus, disregarding the endogeneity of mobile money adoption by ignoring the presence of unobservables tend to underestimate the positive effect of this digital financial inclusion tool.

#### 6. Discussion and Concluding Remarks

The importance of financial inclusion is widely known in the international development community and is perceived with priority in many countries. In SSA countries, the advent and rapid adoption of mobile money, as well as the widespread availability of mobile phones among the unbanked, make mobile money-driven financial inclusion a significant component of National Financial Inclusion Strategies. While several studies have focused on mobile money in recent years, very few have examined the role of mobile money in the nexus

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The IPWRA estimator is a doubly robust estimator that combines the outcome modeling strategy of the regression adjustment (RA) estimator and the treatment modeling strategy of

the inverse probability weighted (IPW) estimator. Although IPWRA requires us to build two models, this estimator has a remarkable property as the researcher only needs to specify one of the two models correctly.

between financial inclusion and financial resilience. Consequently, this study aimed to test the hypothesis according to which access to mobile money increases the likelihood of being resilient during an economic emergency.

In summary, results from our econometric analyses show that access to mobile money increases the average ability of being financially resilient – that is the ability to maintain spending and living standard during an economic emergency (Klapper, 2019). This positive effect of mobile money is even higher when controlling for unobservable factors that jointly affect mobile money adoption and financial resilience ability.

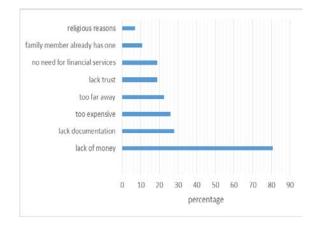
These results are in line with some studies demonstrating that financial inclusion increases financial resilience (Belayeth et al, 2019; Buckland, 2018; Riley, 2018; Suri et al., 2012; Ramji, 2009; Jack and Suri, 2014). For instance, Suri et al. (2012) looked at how mobile money affects people's response to health shocks in Kenya and found that M-PESA users are able to spend more on medical expenses in the event of a health shock while also increasing expenses on food and maintaining their education expenditure. Nonuser households or households far from agents are unable to increase expenditure on food after the shock and decrease their nonfood subsistence expenditure. Jack and Suri (2014) found that non-M-PESA users see a 7-10 percent reduction in consumption in the event of a negative shock, while M-PESA users see a smaller reduction in consumption that is statistically indistinguishable from zero. They concluded that households with M-PESA are better able to smooth risks, and their consumption is less sensitive to shocks.

Our results also support the view of some scholars arguing that savings helps to decrease vulnerability through a protective function (accumulating savings to use in the event of a shock) and a promotive function (accumulating assets to reduce the likelihood that a shock will take place). In their paper "assessing the insurance role of micro-savings" Hulme et al. (2009) reported that those who save with formal or informal savings mechanisms are more likely to rely on savings in the event of an income shock, rather than reducing consumption, selling assets, borrowing, or increasing employment. Over half of adults in Sub-Saharan Africa save money but relatively few use formal methods such as banks or microfinance institutions to do so. In Cameroon for instance, far more adults use rotating savings and credit associations as well as what Global Findex categorizes as "other methods" which

may entail saving cash at home, or buying livestock, jewelry, or real estate (Klapper et al., 2019). According to the 2017 Finscope consumer survey, some mobile money adopters often rely on their account to put aside money on a regular basis. Formal financial inclusion starts with having a bank or mobile money account. This foundation of financial inclusion is crucial as it may lead to noteworthy increases in savings and financial resilience.

Based on these results and the widespread availability of mobile phones among the unbanked in Cameroon - both in urban and rural areas-, we recommend that appropriate policies should be designed in other to reduce barriers to mobile money adoption. Computed data from the 2017 Global Findex reveals several barriers to having a mobile money or a bank account in Cameroon such as lack of documentation, distance, or lack of trust. Amongst the unbanked, about 80% reported that they perceive not having enough money as a barrier to having an account.

#### Figure 5: Barriers to financial inclusion, Cameroon



Source: Built from the 2017 GWP survey dataset

As Allen et al. (2016) put it eloquently, it might be the case that these respondents don't have enough money to use what banking and mobile money services are currently offering - or what the respondents perceive to be available. Therefore, government policies to promote financial inclusion via mobile money should be related to a higher likelihood that individuals perceive that these financial services are within their reach.

Policy-makers should also concentrate on the importance of financial resilience for sustainable development and the ways that inclusive financial technology – such as mobile money – can get families more of the money that they need and when they need it. By significantly lowering the cost of moving money through social networks, the mobile

money technology is showing the way. As results reveal that better saving patterns lead to an increase in the likelihood of being resilient in times of financial adversity, policymakers and mobile money providers in Cameroon should focus on developing interest-earning mobile money based savings products – like MoKash in Uganda that allows users to save as little as UGX 50 (about 10 FCFA) and enables them to schedule savings to happen automatically on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

Although our results provide some evidence in favor of mobile money-driven financial inclusion interventions in Cameroon with regards to their effects on people's financial resilience, this study presents some limits. First of all, we did not control for inactive mobile money accounts since we had no available data to capture account dormancy. This could have been another factor influencing people's ability to face adverse shocks by coming up with an appropriate emergency fund within a short period. While the section related to MOBILE and INTERNET of the 2017 Global Findex questionnaire - more precisely the question labeled as Fin13 - asked respondents about their mobile money accounts usage patterns, data related to this question where not reported in the individual-level dataset for Cameroon.

Focusing on mobile money access rather than usage may be an unpopular position as account dormancy is today's bogeyman of financial inclusion. While everyone knows the limits of looking only at access as a measure of financial inclusion (Soursourian, 2019), access remains an essential part of the financial inclusion equation as well as usage. Following Soursourian (2019), one could argue that the role of financial inclusion should be to expand the set of options available to people, so they are better positioned to achieve their goals. One such goal may be the willingness of staying out of poverty by relying on a mobile money account to access and draw on acceptable and accessible external resources and support in times of financial adversity.

It should have been important to also run an IV regression to account for the endogeneity of mobile money adoption and compare the results with those obtained by running an endogenous treatment effects model, but no valid instrument variable was found in the Global Findex dataset.

The study did not look at resilience strategies. Shifting the discussion from whether people are financially resilient to how they manage to achieve it may be an interesting starting point for future research. As the 2017 Findex pointed out, people use a wide range of strategies to come up with an emergency fund in due time. This includes selfresilience strategies (savings, money from working and sale of assets) but also resilience strategies that involve relying on others (family or friends, and borrowing). Understanding how access to mobile money affects the choice of these financial resilience strategies is critical to designing effective public policies and appropriate mobile money products that offer a wide range of accurate facilities to consumers.

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#### ANNEXES

#### Annex 1: Dependent and independent variables

Variables	Description	chi2 value (p-value)		
Dependent va	riable			
Financial resilience	Dummy equal 1 if the respondent is able to come up with an emergency fund of 1/20 of GNI per capita in local currency within the next month.	-		
Independent	variables : Socio-economic characteristics			
Mob_ account	Dummy equal 1 if respondent reported to currently have a mobile money account	42.9713 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Female	Dummy that takes the value 1 if the respondent is female and 0 otherwise	15.6509 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Age	Age of the respondent in years	-		
Age square	Age of the respondent in years, squared	-		
Poorest 20%	Dummy that takes the value 1 if the respondent falls in the lowest income quintile and 0 otherwise. Income quintiles are based on the incomes of the respondents in a country.	26.7784 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Second 20%	Dummy that takes the value 1 if the respondent falls in the second lowest income quintile and 0 otherwise.			
Middle 20%	Dummy that takes the value 1 if the respondent falls in the middle income quintile and 0 otherwise.	1.2276 ( <b>0.268</b> )		
Fourth 20%	Dummy that takes the value 1 if the respondent falls in the second highest income quintile and 0 otherwise.	5.4663 ( <b>0.019</b> )		
Richest 20%	Dummy that takes the value 1 if the respondent falls in the highest income quintile and 0 otherwise.	36.1840 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Emp_in	Dummy that takes the value 1 if the respondent is in the workforce and 0 otherwise.	8.3574 ( <b>0.004</b> )		
Independent	variables : Individuals' Socio-economic characteristics			
Primary educ	Dummy that takes the value 1 if the respondent completed elementary education or less and 0 otherwise.	44.7976 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Secondary educ	Dummy that takes the value 1 if the respondent completed secondary education and some education beyond secondary education and 0 otherwise.	32.3977 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Tertiary educ	Dummy that takes the value 1 if the respondent completed years of education beyond secondary school and 0 otherwise.	11.5774 ( <b>0.001</b> )		
Fin_ Account	Dummy equal to 1 if respondent reported to currently have a bank account at a formal financial institution-a bank, credit union, cooperative, post office, or microfinance institution.	54.5055 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Independent	variables : Savings and Credit patterns			
Saved	Dummy equal to 1 if respondent reported to have saved or set aside money in the past 12 months using a formal/informal financial method and 0 otherwise.	77.8099 ( <b>0.000</b> )		
Borrowed	Dummy equal to 1 if respondent reported to have borrowed money alone or together with someone else, from any source for any reason in the past 12 months and 0 otherwise.	2.0159 ( <b>0.156</b> )		

**Note:** The Pearson's chi-squared tests performed on a set of two-way tables in order to measure association between the dependent variable and each independent variable are reported in the last column. The results of the chi-squared tests seems to legitimate the use of a probit regression technique because of their ability to control for many variables simultaneously.

Basic regression (mob_account ownership)	Basic regression + Financial institution account control	Basic regression + Fin_account + Individual characteristics	Basic regression + Fin_account + Financial behavior controls	Basic regression + Fin_account + indiv. characteristics + Financial behavior
				0.1659531
	(0.03301)****	(0.04331)****	(0.03884)****	(0.04611)***
	0 1159214	0.0460892	0.0517315	-0.0071122
	(0.04239)***			(0.04378)
cteristics variables			(111 11)	(111-11-1)
		-0.0510816		-0.0534343
		(0.03608)		(0.03517)
		0.0182789		0.0160738
		(0.00622)***		(0.00622)***
				-0.0001831
		· · · · · ·		(0.000077)**
				-0.2975064
		· · · · ·		(0.11731)**
				-0.1955951
		(0.10190)		(0.08854)**
		0.07701		-0.1041789
				-0.1041789 (0.05468)*
				-0.0401796
				(0.05583)
		(0100701)		(0.000000)
		0.0514182		0.0275984
		(0.05611)		(0.05544)
		0.146019		0.1184212
		(0.05419)***		(0.05566)**
		-0.0114198		-0.0474452
		(0.04076)		(0.04001)
or variables				
				0.2083274
			· · · · ·	(0.04238)***
				-0.048382
0 4652774	0 4652606	0.4605204	· · · · · ·	(0.03710)
				0.4608576
· /	· · · ·		· · · · ·	<u>(0.01758)***</u> 992
				106.20 (14)
	. ,			0.0000
				0.0000
	regression (mob_account ownership) 0.2634834 (0.02806)*** nclusion variable	regression (mob_account ownership)         regression + Financial institution account control           0.2634834         0.2461506           (0.02806)***         (0.03301)***           nclusion variable         0.1159214 (0.04239)***           cteristics variables         0           cteristics variables         0 <td>regression (mob_account ownership)         regression + Financial institution account control         regression + Fin_account characteristics           0.2634834         0.2461506         0.1961862           (0.02806)***         (0.003301)***         (0.04331)***           nclusion variable         0.1159214 (0.04239)***         (0.0460892 (0.04447)           eteristics variables         -0.0510816 (0.03608)         (0.04239)***           eteristics variables         -0.0510816 (0.03608)         (0.00022)***           eteristics variables         -0.002103 (0.000076)***         (0.000076)***           eteristics variables         -0.2758911 (0.12031)**         (0.12031)**           eteristics         -0.07701 (0.05815)         (0.05701)           eteristics         -0.0571852 (0.005701)         (0.05511)           eteristics         -0.0514182 (0.05611)         (0.05419)***           eteristics         -0.0114198 (0.04076)         (0.04076)           eteristics         -0.0114198 (0.04076)         (0.04076)</td> <td>regression (mob_account ownership)         regression + Financial institution account control         regression + Fin_account - Individual characteristics         + Fin_account + Financial behavior controls           0.2634834         0.2461506         0.1961862         0.2151827           (0.02806)***         (0.03301)***         (0.04331)***         (0.03884)***           nclusion variable         0.1159214         0.0460892         (0.0517315           (0.04239)***         0.0460892         (0.0517315           (0.03608)         -0.0510816         (0.04463)           (0.03608)         0.0182789         (0.000076)***           (0.000076)***         -0.002103         (0.000076)***           -0.00510816         (0.0231)**         -0.062103           (0.000076)***         -0.0051031         (0.000076)***           -0.002103         (0.000076)***         -0.005103           -0.002103         (0.010190)         -0.01632527           (0.010190)         -0.0271852         (0.05701)           -0.00271852         (0.05611)         -0.004076)           -0.004076)         -0.004076)         -0.004076)           or variables         -0.0114198         (0.04163)***           -0.0644657         (0.03738)*         -0.0644657</td>	regression (mob_account ownership)         regression + Financial institution account control         regression + Fin_account characteristics           0.2634834         0.2461506         0.1961862           (0.02806)***         (0.003301)***         (0.04331)***           nclusion variable         0.1159214 (0.04239)***         (0.0460892 (0.04447)           eteristics variables         -0.0510816 (0.03608)         (0.04239)***           eteristics variables         -0.0510816 (0.03608)         (0.00022)***           eteristics variables         -0.002103 (0.000076)***         (0.000076)***           eteristics variables         -0.2758911 (0.12031)**         (0.12031)**           eteristics         -0.07701 (0.05815)         (0.05701)           eteristics         -0.0571852 (0.005701)         (0.05511)           eteristics         -0.0514182 (0.05611)         (0.05419)***           eteristics         -0.0114198 (0.04076)         (0.04076)           eteristics         -0.0114198 (0.04076)         (0.04076)	regression (mob_account ownership)         regression + Financial institution account control         regression + Fin_account - Individual characteristics         + Fin_account + Financial behavior controls           0.2634834         0.2461506         0.1961862         0.2151827           (0.02806)***         (0.03301)***         (0.04331)***         (0.03884)***           nclusion variable         0.1159214         0.0460892         (0.0517315           (0.04239)***         0.0460892         (0.0517315           (0.03608)         -0.0510816         (0.04463)           (0.03608)         0.0182789         (0.000076)***           (0.000076)***         -0.002103         (0.000076)***           -0.00510816         (0.0231)**         -0.062103           (0.000076)***         -0.0051031         (0.000076)***           -0.002103         (0.000076)***         -0.005103           -0.002103         (0.010190)         -0.01632527           (0.010190)         -0.0271852         (0.05701)           -0.00271852         (0.05611)         -0.004076)           -0.004076)         -0.004076)         -0.004076)           or variables         -0.0114198         (0.04163)***           -0.0644657         (0.03738)*         -0.0644657

Annex 2: Probit regression outcome: --financial resilience ability

**Note**: Probit regressions. Standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\*, \*\*, and \* indicate significance at 1%, 5%, and 10%. Dependent variable is a dummy equal to 1 if the respondent reported that he/she was able to come up with an emergency fund of 1/20 of GNI per capita in local currency within the next month. Coefficients are average marginal effects (dy/dx) and indicate the increase or decrease in percentage points of the likelihood of being financially resilient. The numbers in the parentheses in the Wald chi2 row indicate the degree of freedom of the Chi-square distribution.

Outcome model : Treatment model:	linear					
Fin_resilience	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	z	P>   z	[95% Conf.	Interval
ATE						
mob_account	-	200000	0 00	0 000	1150201	1 2702
(1 vs 0)	.74677	.3222202	2.32	0.020	.1152301	1.3783
POmean						
mob_account						
0	.3722998	.0540862	6.88	0.000	.2662928	.478306
rme1						
fin_account	.5437075	.1098537	4.95	0.000	.3283981	.759016
Female	0373748	.1009062	-0.37	0.711	2351473	.160397
Age	.0104457	.0227772	0.46	0.647	0341968	.055088
Age2	0002541	.0002957	-0.86	0.390	0008337	.000325
Primaryeduc	-1.127696	.3072798	-3.67	0.000	-1.729953	525438
Secondaryeduc	7348193	.2971163	-2.47	0.013	-1.317157	152482
inc_qpoorest20	78145	.1915412	-4.08	0.000	-1.156864	406036
inc_qsecond20	7041397	.163347	-4.31	0.000	-1.024294	383985
inc_qmiddle20	3754598	.1418847	-2.65	0.008	6535486	097370
inc qfourth20	2212174	.1316388	-1.68	0.093	4792247	.036789
emp_in	.2711629	.1226619	2.21	0.027	.03075	.511575
_cons	0853115	.4822846	-0.18	0.860	-1.030572	.859948
					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
OME0 Female	088472	.0361337	-2.45	0.014	1592927	017651
	.0142019	.005981	2.37	0.014	.0024795	.025924
Age Age2	0001517	.0000733	-2.07	0.018	0002953	-7.98e-0
Primaryeduc	3172076	.1497062	-2.07	0.039	6106264	023788
Secondaryeduc	2846867	.1280638	-2.22	0.026	5356872	033686
inc_qpoorest20	1670002	.0740695	-2.25	0.020	3121736	021826
inc_qsecond20	0811092	.0733205	-1.11	0.269	2248146	.062596
inc_qmiddle20	0603555	.0646153	-0.93	0.350	186999	.066288
	0709653	.0606978	-0.93	0.242		.048000
inc_qfourth20				0.242	1899308	.048000
emp_in	0681676	.0415785	-1.64		14966	
Saved	.2020317	.0372048	5.43	0.000	.1291115	.274951
Borrowed	0586626 .4689074	.0347051 .2082574	-1.69 2.25	0.091 0.024	1266833 .0607304	.009358
_cons	.4009074	.2082574	2.25	0.024	.0807304	.877084
OME1						
Female	0057213	.06371	-0.09	0.928	1305907	.11914
Age	021035	.0112013	-1.88	0.060	0429891	.000919
Age2	.0003111	.0001324	2.35	0.019	.0000516	.000570
Primaryeduc	.0527144	.230218	0.23	0.819	3985046	.503933
Secondaryeduc	.1896068	.175939	1.08	0.281	1552273	.534440
inc_qpoorest20	.3660789	.1610275	2.27	0.023	.0504709	.681686
inc_qsecond20	0291098	.1593322	-0.18	0.855	3413952	.283175
inc_qmiddle20	.0201786	.1158632	0.17	0.862	2069091	.247266
inc_qfourth20	.2424776	.0948211	2.56	0.011	.0566317	.428323
emp_in	.1744464	.0970947	1.80	0.072	0158557	.364748
Saved	.1880788	.0877284	2.14	0.032	.0161343	.360023
Borrowed	0004064	.0656991	-0.01	0.995	1291743	.128361
_cons	.9480331	.3048443	3.11	0.002	.3505493	1.54551
геомо						
_cons	5301472	.2672609	-1.98	0.047	-1.053969	006325
ГЕОМ1						
	6744041	.3922489				.094389

#### Annex 3: Full treatment-effects model estimations

#### Endogenous treatment-effects estimation Outcome model : linear Treatment model: probit

Robust Fin\_resilience Coef Std. Err. P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval] z ATET mob account (1 vs 0) .6014361 .2622351 2.29 0.022 .0874648 1.115407 POmean mob\_account 0 .0995949 .2614649 0.38 0.703 -.4128668 .6120566 TME1 .5437075 .3283981 .7590168 .1098537 4.95 0.000 fin account -.0373748 .1009062 -0.37 0.711 -.2351473 .1603976 Female .0104457 .0227772 0.647 -.0341968 .0550882 0.46 Aqe Aqe2 -.0002541 .0002957 -0.86 0.390 -.0008337 .0003255 Primaryeduc -1.127696 .3072798 -3.67 0.000 -1.729953 -.5254386 Secondaryeduc -.7348193 .2971163 -2.47 0.013 -1.317157 -.1524821 -.78145 -4.08 0.000 -.4060361 inc\_qpoorest20 .1915412 -1.156864 -.7041397 -4.31 0.000 -1.024294 -.3839855 inc\_qsecond20 .163347 -.3754598 -2.65 0.008 -.0973709 inc gmiddle20 .1418847 -.6535486 inc\_qfourth20 -.2212174 .1316388 -1.68 0.093 -.4792247 .0367899 .2711629 .1226619 2.21 0.027 .03075 .5115759 emp\_in -.0853115 .4822846 -0.18 0.860 -1.030572 .8599489 \_cons OME 0 -.088472 -2.45 -.0176512 Female .0361337 0.014 -.1592927 Age .0142019 .005981 2.37 0.018 .0024795 .0259244 -.0001517 .0000733 -2.07 0.039 -.0002953 -7.98e-06 Age2 Primaryeduc -.3172076 .1497062 -2.12 0.034 -.6106264 -.0237889 Secondaryeduc -.2846867 .1280638 -2.22 0.026 -.5356872-.0336862 inc\_qpoorest20 -.1670002 .0740695 -2.25 0.024 -.3121736 -.0218267 -.0811092 -1.11 0.269 inc qsecond20 .0733205 -.2248146 .0625963 inc\_qmiddle20 -.0603555 .0646153 -0.93 0.350 -.186999 .0662881 inc\_qfourth20 -.0709653 .0606978 -1.17 0.242 -.1899308 .0480001 emp\_in -.0681676 .0415785 -1.64 0.101 -.14966 .0133248 .2020317 .0372048 0.000 .2749518 Saved 5.43 .1291115 Borrowed -.0586626 .0347051 -1.69 0.091 -.1266833.0093582 .4689074 .2082574 2.25 0.024 .0607304 .8770844 \_cons OME1 Female -.0057213 .06371 -0.09 0.928 -.1305907 .119148 0.060 Age -.021035.0112013 -1.88-.0429891 .0009192 2.35 0.019 .0003111 .0001324 .0000516 .0005706 Age2 Primaryeduc .0527144 0.23 0.819 -.3985046 .230218 .5039333 Secondaryeduc .1896068 .175939 1.08 0.281 -.1552273 .5344409 .3660789 2.27 0.023 inc\_qpoorest20 .1610275 .0504709 .6816869 inc\_qsecond20 -.0291098 .1593322 -0.18 0.855 -.3413952 .2831755 0.17 inc\_qmiddle20 .0201786 .1158632 0.862 -.2069091 .2472663 .2424776 inc\_qfourth20 0.011 .0948211 2.56 .0566317 .4283236 .1744464 .0970947 0.072 1.80 -.0158557 .3647485 emp in Saved .1880788 .0877284 2.14 0.032 .0161343 .3600234 -.0004064 .0656991 -0.01 0.995 -.1291743 .1283615 Borrowed \_cons .9480331 .3048443 3.11 0.002 .3505493 1.545517 TEOM0 -.5301472 .2672609 -1.98 0.047 -1.053969 -.0063255cons TEOM1 -.6744041 .3922489 -1.720.086 -1.443198.0943896 \_cons

Treatment-effects estimation Estimator : IPW regression adjustment Outcome model : linear Treatment model: probit

Fin_resilience	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Z	P> z	[95% Conf.	Interval
ATE						
mob_account	0520656	0401040	1 0 4	0 1 7 0	0046866	120000
(1 vs 0)	.0539656	.0401243	1.34	0.179	0246766	.1326078
POmean						
mob_account						
0	.4749867	.0176491	26.91	0.000	.4403951	.5095782
OME 0						
Female	088017	.0340465	-2.59	0.010	154747	021287
Age	.0169213	.0055647	3.04	0.002	.0060147	.0278279
Age2	0001892	.000067	-2.83	0.005	0003204	000058
Primaryeduc	516796	.079281	-6.52	0.000	6721839	3614081
Secondaryeduc	4234786	.0784536	-5.40	0.000	5772449	2697124
inc_qpoorest20	2715565	.0523583	-5.19	0.000	3741769	1689361
inc_qsecond20	1819381	.0515445	-3.53	0.000	2829634	0809127
inc_qmiddle20	1279494	.0529116	-2.42	0.016	2316543	0242445
inc_qfourth20	127503	.0514093	-2.48	0.013	2282633	0267427
emp_in	0298792	.0370069	-0.81	0.419	1024114	.042653
Saved	.2124484	.0365469	5.81	0.000	.1408177	.2840791
Borrowed	0512937	.034677	-1.48	0.139	1192594	.0166721
_cons	.716207	.1320894	5.42	0.000	.4573166	.9750975
OME1						
Female	.0127843	.0683377	0.19	0.852	1211551	.1467237
Age	0129267	.0090533	-1.43	0.153	0306709	.0048174
Age2	.000199	.0000847	2.35	0.019	.0000329	.000365
Primaryeduc	2029434	.1271135	-1.60	0.110	4520812	.0461944
Secondaryeduc	0479109	.1077918	-0.44	0.657	2591789	.1633571
inc_qpoorest20	.1983621	.1246992	1.59	0.112	0460439	.442768
inc_qsecond20	2849596	.1295284	-2.20	0.028	5388306	0310887
inc_qmiddle20	1433364	.0965358	-1.48	0.138	332543	.0458702
inc_qfourth20	.1949797	.0929102	2.10	0.036	.0128792	.3770803
emp_in	.1194064	.0928364	1.29	0.198	0625497	.3013624
Saved	.358421	.085604	4.19	0.000	.1906403	.5262017
Borrowed	.1211812	.0661061	1.83	0.067	0083843	.2507468
_cons	.455478	.2535745	1.80	0.072	0415189	.9524749
TME1						
fin_account	.5437075	.1098537	4.95	0.000	.3283981	.7590168
Female	0373748	.1009062	-0.37	0.711	2351473	.1603976
Age	.0104457	.0227772	0.46	0.647	0341968	.0550882
Age2	0002541	.0002957	-0.86	0.390	0008337	.0003255
Primaryeduc	-1.127696	.3072798	-3.67	0.000	-1.729953	5254386
Secondaryeduc	7348193	.2971163	-2.47	0.013	-1.317157	1524821
inc_qpoorest20	78145	.1915412	-4.08	0.000	-1.156864	4060361
inc_qsecond20	7041397	.163347	-4.31	0.000	-1.024294	383985
inc_qmiddle20	3754598	.1418847	-2.65	0.008	6535486	0973709
inc_qfourth20	2212174	.1316388	-1.68	0.093	4792247	.0367899
emp_in	.2711629	.1226619	2.21	0.027	.03075	.5115759
_cons	0853115	.4822846	-0.18	0.860	-1.030572	.8599489

Treatment-effects estimation Nu Estimator : IPW regression adjustment Outcome model : linear Treatment model: probit

		Robust				
Fin_resilience	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P>   z	[95% Conf.	Interval]
ATET						
mob_account						
(1 vs 0)	.0766374	.0410288	1.87	0.062	0037775	.1570523
POmean						
mob_account						
0	.6243935	.0279646	22.33	0.000	.5695839	.6792031
OMEO						
Female	0497418	.043242	-1.15	0.250	1344947	.035011
Age	.0194513	.0077326	2.52	0.012	.0042956	.0346069
Age2	0002097	.0000923	-2.27	0.023	0003907	0000288
Primaryeduc	5179118	.094102	-5.50	0.000	7023483	3334754
Secondaryeduc	393206	.0919321	-4.28	0.000	5733896	2130224
inc_qpoorest20	2768183	.064821	-4.27	0.000	4038651	1497714
inc_qsecond20	1705618	.0612489	-2.78	0.005	2906073	0505162
inc_qmiddle20	1539911	.062244	-2.47	0.013	2759871	0319952
inc_qfourth20	1639151	.0603976	-2.71	0.007	2822921	045538
emp_in	.0026708	.0493596	0.05	0.957	0940721	.0994138
Saved	.1900394	.0478215	3.97	0.000	.096311	.2837679
Borrowed	0386668	.0441908	-0.87	0.382	1252791	.0479455
cons	.6293553	.1732645	3.63	0.000	.2897631	.9689475
OME1						
Female	0193832	.0593239	-0.33	0.744	1356558	.0968895
Age	0174157	.0101391	-1.72	0.086	0372879	.0024564
Age2	.0002553	.0001181	2.16	0.031	.0000238	.0004868
Primaryeduc	2545477	.1220842	-2.09	0.037	4938283	0152671
Secondaryeduc	0256645	.098377	-0.26	0.794	2184798	.1671508
inc_qpoorest20	.2113003	.1293511	1.63	0.102	0422232	.4648238
inc_qsecond20	18038	.13527	-1.33	0.182	4455043	.0847443
inc_qmiddle20	083183	.0907516	-0.92	0.359	2610529	.0946869
inc_qfourth20	.171657	.0700075	2.45	0.014	.0344448	.3088692
emp_in	.219968	.0910365	2.42	0.016	.0415398	.3983962
Saved	.2055404	.0890222	2.31	0.021	.0310601	.3800207
Borrowed	.0158698	.0640043	0.25	0.804	1095764	.141316
_cons	.6612398	.2464507	2.68	0.007	.1782053	1.144274
TME1						
fin_account	.5437075	.1098537	4.95	0.000	.3283981	.7590168
Female	0373748	.1009062	-0.37	0.711	2351473	.1603976
Age	.0104457	.0227772	0.46	0.647	0341968	.0550882
Age2	0002541	.0002957	-0.86	0.390	0008337	.0003255
Primaryeduc	-1.127696	.3072798	-3.67	0.000	-1.729953	5254386
Secondaryeduc	7348193	.2971163	-2.47	0.013	-1.317157	1524821
inc_qpoorest20	78145	.1915412	-4.08	0.000	-1.156864	4060361
inc_qsecond20	7041397	.163347	-4.31	0.000	-1.024294	3839855
inc_qmiddle20	3754598	.1418847	-2.65	0.008	6535486	0973709
inc_qfourth20	2212174	.1316388	-1.68	0.093	4792247	.0367899
emp_in	.2711629	.1226619	2.21	0.027	.03075	.5115759
_cons	0853115	.4822846	-0.18	0.860	-1.030572	.8599489

Treatment-eff	ects estimatio	Number	of obs =	992		
Estimator	Hatches	1				
Outcome model		min =	1			
Distance metr:	ic: Mahalanobi		max =	4		
		Al Robust				
Fin_resili-e	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P>[z]	[954 Conf.	Interval]
ATE						
mob account						
(1 vs 0)	.0967742	.0479678	2.02	0.044	.002759	.1907894
Treatment-effects estimation				Number	of obs =	992
Estimator : nearest-neighbor matching				Matches	: requested =	1
Outcome model : matching					min =	1
Distance metri	ic: Mahalanobi		max =	4		
		AI Robust				
Fin_resili-e	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[954 Conf.	Interval]
ATET						
nob account						
(1 vs 0)	.064433	.051618	1.25	0.212	0367364	.1656024

**Notes**: NNM does not use a formal model for either the outcome or the treatment status, but this flexibility comes at a price. When matching on more than one continuous covariate, the NNM estimator must be augmented with a bias-correction term.

Treatment-effects estimation					of obs =	992
Estimator : propensity-score matching Outcome model : matching					: requested =	
					min =	
Treatment model: probit nax =						
		AI Robust				
Fin_resili-e	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[954 Conf.	Interval]
ATE						
mob account						
(1 vs 0)	.1484375	.047597	3.12	0.002	.0551492	.2417258
Treatment-effe		of obs =				
Estimator	imator : propensity-score matching				: requested =	1
Outcome model : matching min =						
Treatment mode	max =	4				
		AI Robust				
Fin_resili-e	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P>[z]	[954 Conf.	Interval]
ATET						
mob account						
(1 vs 0)	.0902062	.0511702	1.76	0.078	0100855	.1904979

**Notes:** PSM does not require bias correction, because it uses a model for the treatment. If the treatment model is reasonably well specified, PSM will perform at least as well as NNM.