

Gender-Intelligent Consumer Protection:

Identifying and Monitoring Risks

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Findex shows the need to strengthen customer trust in financial services for the unbanked and banked population

23%

Unbanked adults do not trust the financial system

36%

Unbanked adults indicated high costs as a reason for not having an account

9%

Adults in developing economies have an account but don't use it

48%

of adults with an inactive account in LMICs do not use it because they do not trust the financial system

54%

Unbanked adults are women

10pp

In developing economies, unbanked women are more likely than men to need help using financial services

50%

Women in developing economies find it difficult to come up with emergency funds

44%

Women are very worried about not having money for routine monthly expenses or bills

About 24% adults are still unbanked

Source: Global Findex 2021



Low-income women are more vulnerable to DFS consumer risks

Four broad risk types

FRAUD

Example: Ponzi schemes

Women are more likely to suffer losses in a Ponzi scheme

DATA MISUSE

Example:
• Algorithmic bias

Due to skewed data, women are more likely to experience algorithmic discrimination

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

Example:

Complex interface

More women access smartphones, but few have the digital skills to read contract terms and pricing information

INADEQUATE REDRESS MECHANISMS

Example:

• Fewer female customer service

Women may fail to complain about DFS issues when they find a male agent.

Two crosscutting risk types

AGENT-RELATED RISKS

Agent fraud – female customers are more likely to suffer misconduct in certain contexts.

NETWORK DOWNTIME

Due to lower digital and literacy skills, women are more likely to engage in risky customer behavior e.g leaving the phone with other people, including agents, when the network is down

The two cross-cutting risks share some elements with all four broad risk types.

Further info is available in The Evolution of the Nature and Scale of DFS Consumer Risks, CGAP 2022



Why is market monitoring important to address consumer risks?

- Holisticness: Takes a broader look at a sector, as opposed to a narrow focus on individual providers
- Customer centricity: Helps better understand consumer risks, behaviors, experiences
- Capability: Helps proactively identify and act on issues that deserve attention, as well as prioritizing resources
- Forward-looking: Identifies innovative products, services and providers, and emerging risks
- Moral suasion: Lets institutions know they are seen
- Collaboration: Enables evidence-based dialogues

Different tools can help identify risks that disparately affect women

Supervisory objective	Analysis of regulatory reports	Analysis of complaints data	Social media monitoring	Analysis of consumer contracts	Mystery shopping	Industry engagement	Thematic reviews	Phone surveys
Monitor indicators of consumer risk	✓	✓	✓					~
Monitor over- indebtedness	✓	~	✓			✓	✓	✓
Monitor sales and marketing practices		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Monitor products in the market			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitor consumer complaints	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Monitor gender- based risks	✓	~		✓	✓		✓	\
Monitor consumer sentiment toward FSPs			✓					✓
Monitor emerging consumer issues			✓	/		✓	✓	



Market Monitoring Toolkit – Tools & Cases

Analysis of regulatory reports

Analysis of consumer contracts

Analysis of complaints data

Mystery

shopping

Phone surveys

Social media monitoring

Industry engagement

Thematic reviews

Mexico

Tanzania

Kenya

Ireland

Portugal

Russian Federation

- Introduction
- Market Monitoring Tools
- Country Cases
- Taking Action
 - Supervisors
 - Other stakeholders
- Further Resources
 - Market monitoring FAQ
 - Suptech FAQ
 - What standard setters say
 - Other resources



Tools and cases that refer the use of Suptech

https://www.cgap.org/topics/collections/ market-monitoring

Phone survey of DFS consumer risks in Cote d'Ivoire

44% Mobile money users were women



Women are more likely to:

- Face difficulties navigating a DFS menu (25% v 17%)
- Have issues understanding a DFS offer (22% v 18%)
- Lose money following a scam (16% v 12%)
- Not contact the provider when there is a problem (73% v 63%)
- Not know how to contact the provider (16% v 11%)
- Have an agent not act on a complaint (20% v 11%)

95%

Respondents faced at least one challenge with DFS

40%

Respondents experienced financial losses



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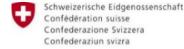


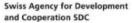
























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