

Nigeria—Fostering Financial Inclusion through Digital Financial Services

Nigeria

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SIP/2023/020

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2023
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IMF Selected Issues Paper
African Department

Nigeria—Fostering Financial Inclusion through Digital Financial Services
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Authorized for distribution by Jesmin Rahman
January 2023

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ABSTRACT: Financial inclusion in Nigeria has had undeniable successes, with the onboarding of residents to the banking sector consistently progressing. But the overall exclusion rates continue to exceed official targets, not least due to low financial literacy. Going forward, Nigeria’s financial inclusion strategy should more systematically leverage rapidly developing digital instruments. Uptake of digital financial services, notably mobile money, is still lower than in peer countries, and overcoming this would require improving digital financial literacy, upgrading digital infrastructure, and promoting incubation and sound practices of fintech firms. Nigeria’s CBDC also has an enabling potential if accompanied by a comprehensive package of supportive policies.

RECOMMENDED CITATION: Torsten Wezel and Jack Joo K. Ree, 2023, “Nigeria—Fostering Financial Inclusion through Digital Financial Services”, IMF Selected Issues Paper

JEL Classification Numbers:	E42, E58, G28, G53
Keywords:	Central Bank Digital Currency, digital financial services, financial inclusion, financial literacy, mobile money
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SELECTED ISSUES PAPERS

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