

COMESA DRPP FACTSHEET

Delivering trusted, instant, and affordable cross border payments with settlement in local currency, fostering financial inclusion. Commercial availability in 2026.

BACKGROUND: THE COMESA PAYMENT ECOSYSTEM

- **21 Member States** | **681.5M people**
USD 1.08T GDP | **280M active mobile wallets**.
- Intra-COMESA trade: **USD 14 Billion**
- Barrier: **lack of low-cost, accessible cross-border payment systems**, especially for MSMEs and citizens.
- **Remittances**: Expanding to support excess of USD115 Billion in P2P Remittances across Africa.

THE FOUNDATION: REPSS

The **Regional Payment and Settlement System (REPSS)** is a large-scale platform for cross-border payments via Central Banks.

Secure. Trusted. Regional.

But **MSMEs, women, youth, and informal traders** remain largely excluded.

THE MISSING LINK

For small-value, everyday transactions, barriers persist:

- High transaction fees
- Long delays
- Currency risks
- Limited access
- Reliance on cash and informal channels (unsafe, unregulated, unpredictable).

THE SOLUTION: DRPP

The **Digital Retail Payment Platform (DRPP)** bridges this gap:

- **Instant, secure, and inclusive** cross-border retail payments
- **Transaction costs <3%** (meeting World Bank & G20 targets)
- **Local currency settlement** - no forex burden
- **Open to banks, wallets, FinTechs** - fostering innovation
- **Everyday use** by citizens and MSMEs

Together, **REPSS + DRPP = a complete COMESA digital payment ecosystem**, serving everyone from corporates to informal traders and citizens.

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

Fiscal Resilience

- Reduces dependency on external currencies & payment networks.
- Reducing processing and forex fees to leave funds that would have gone to international networks **within COMESA**, strengthening local banks and reserves.

Formalisation & Tax Revenue

- Transforms millions of informal, untraceable transactions into the **formal economy**.
- Expands the tax base, unlocking new revenue streams for healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

Job Creation & Youth Empowerment

- MSMEs gain access to a **655+M-person market**.
- Supports scaling, innovation, and employment, thereby tackling youth unemployment directly.

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT cont.

Geopolitical Strength

- A **digitally integrated COMESA** bloc speaks with one voice.

Data Sovereignty

- Real-time, accurate data on trade flows, financial inclusion gaps, and hotspots.
- Enables **evidence-based policymaking** at regional scale.

WHAT MAKES DRPP UNIQUE?

- **Affordable (<3% cost)** - with low participation costs
- **Built for COMESA, by COMESA**
- **Local currency settlement** - the heart of its value proposition.
- **No apex bank** - decentralized, resilient design.
- **Pan-COMESA interoperability** - inclusive, even in less digitized economies. Rails that provide access to illiquid markets without infrastructure costs.
- **Open & inclusive** – no barriers to membership: banks, mobile wallets, FinTechs all connect.

USE CASES

- **Citizens** - instant P2P remittances
- **MSMEs & Merchants** (coming soon) - secure P2B payments
- **Financial Institutions** - faster remittances & compliance support
- **Policy Makers** - harmonised standards & real-time data

TECHNICAL BACKBONE

- **Powered by Mojaloop** - global open-source payment technology
- **ISO 20022-compliant** (IIPS standards)
- **Built for Fraud, AML, CFT safeguards** - future-ready security
- **FX Specialists ride on IIPS rails** - competitive rates, reduced risks

CONTACT INFORMATION

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As Easy as Local Payments
