

OVERVIEW



Digital financial inclusion is pivotal for social empowerment, economic growth, and sustainable development.

Despite notable progress in recent years, 1.4 billion adults remain unbanked, [according to the World Bank](#). Challenges persist, including gender disparities in access and lack of proper tools and infrastructure for informal economies. Blockchain technology, like the Stellar network, provides transformative potential in driving greater financial access and opportunity. By providing secure, efficient, and cost-effective solutions, blockchain facilitates access to formal financial services, promotes job creation, and fosters business growth.

The [Stellar ecosystem](#) – companies and builders that leverage the open source Stellar blockchain network to create innovative solutions – can play a crucial role in advancing financial access globally, especially in developing economies. The ecosystem has emerged as a key player in advancing digital financial inclusion by enabling broader access to financial services, particularly in underserved regions and communities.

THE STELLAR ECOSYSTEM'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Affordable Payment Solutions: Mobile money, QR payments, and digital wallets reduce costs, allowing informal workers to interact with the formal economy.

Cash-to-Digital Asset Conversions: Stellar-based solutions like Vibrant and Airtm enable seamless conversion between cash and cryptocurrencies, which can be a way to protect against currency devaluation.

Cross-Border Payments: Solutions by FinClusive, Anclap, BOSS Money, and Airtm that leverage the Stellar network reduce costs in remittance corridors and improve interoperability between blockchain based-solutions and existing financial infrastructure, fostering a user-friendly experience.

Real-Time Payments Settlements: Blockchain technology, including a solution currently in development by DCM in Ukraine, enables real-time payments and ensures transparent, traceable, and efficient distribution of funds.

Humanitarian Aid Disbursement: Stellar Aid Assist (SAA) facilitates transparent and quick cash assistance and uses blockchain technology to aid refugees and displaced persons.

While blockchain innovations promote financial inclusion, considerations for consumer protection, privacy, and financial education are crucial. Continued collaboration between industry and government stakeholders is necessary to establish guiding principles. To read more, check out our [full report](#).