




International Monetary Fund
African Department

Financial Inclusion in the ECCAS region: where do we stand

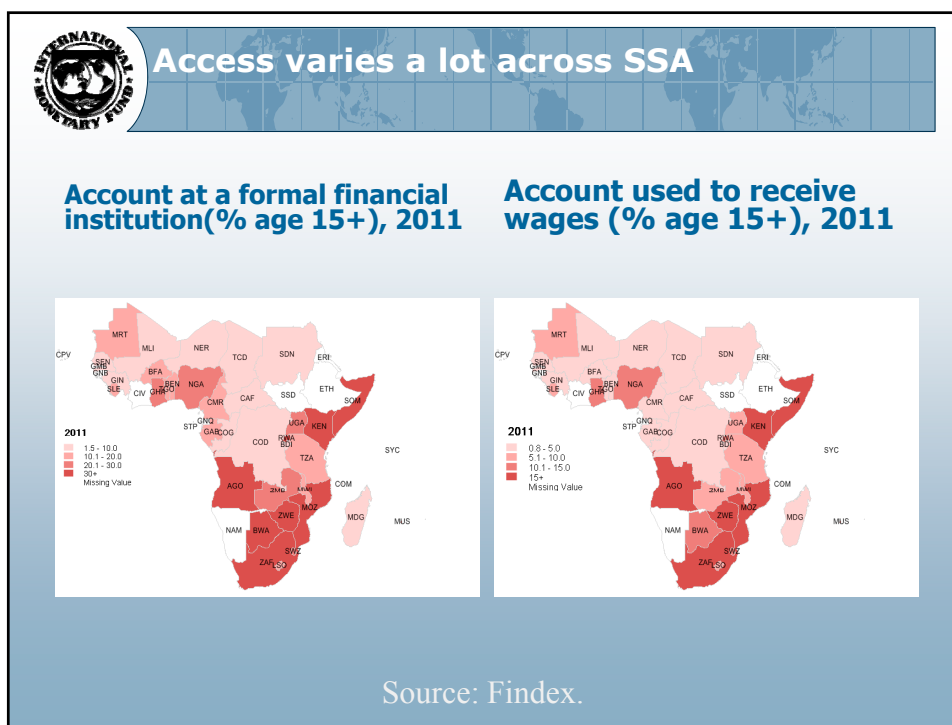
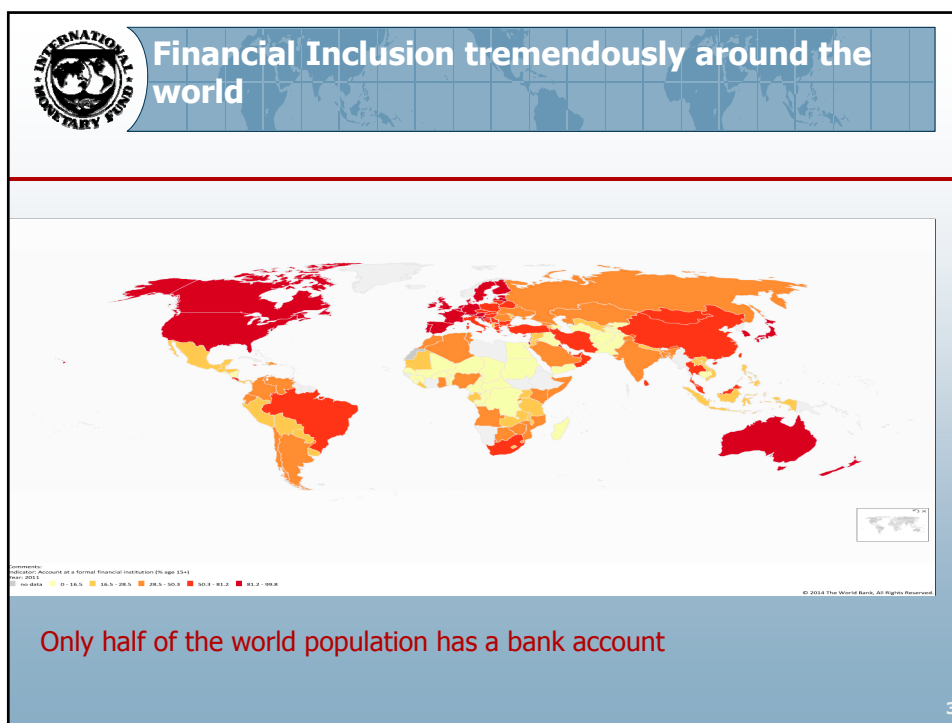
ECCAS Regional
Conference ,
Brazzaville, Congo
March 23, 2015

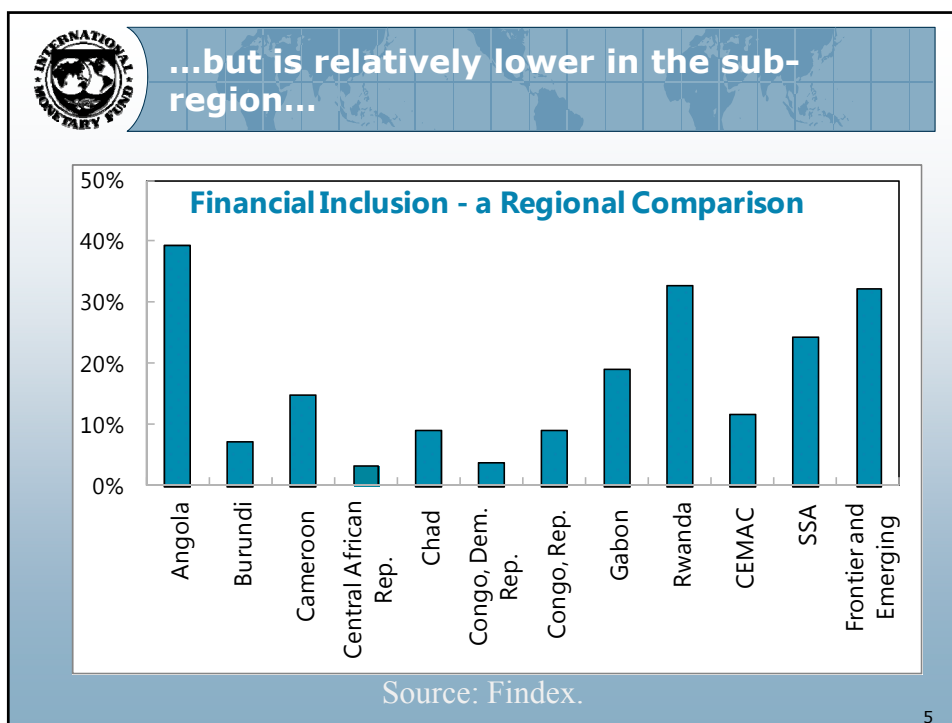
Boriana Yontcheva
Resident Representative Cameroon
African Department
IMF



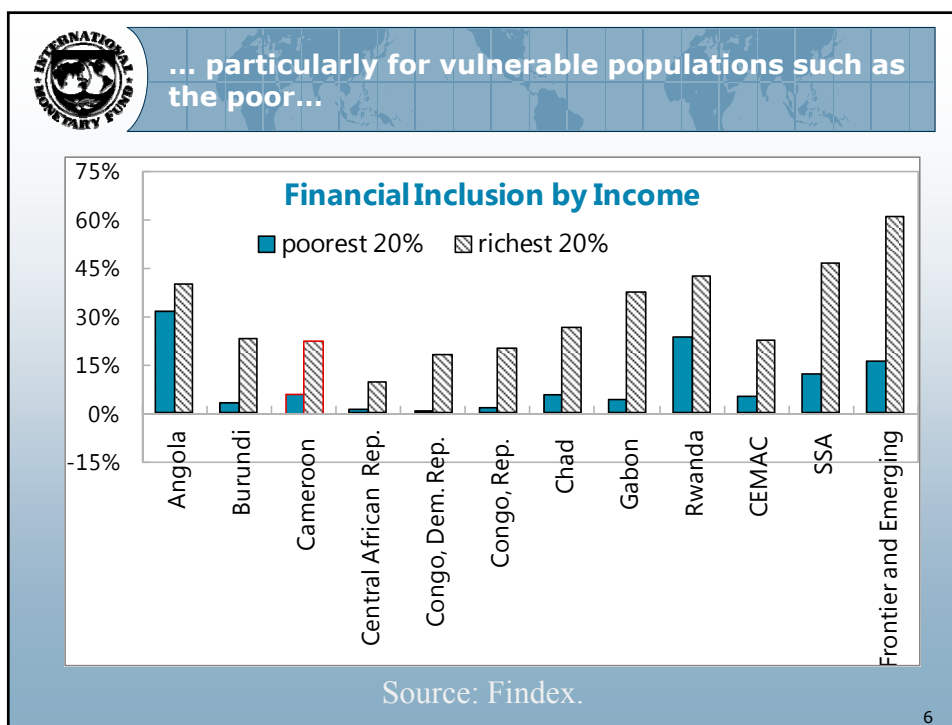
Outline

1. Access to financial service is very uneven
2. Where to we stand in ECCAS
3. Causes
4. Reforms

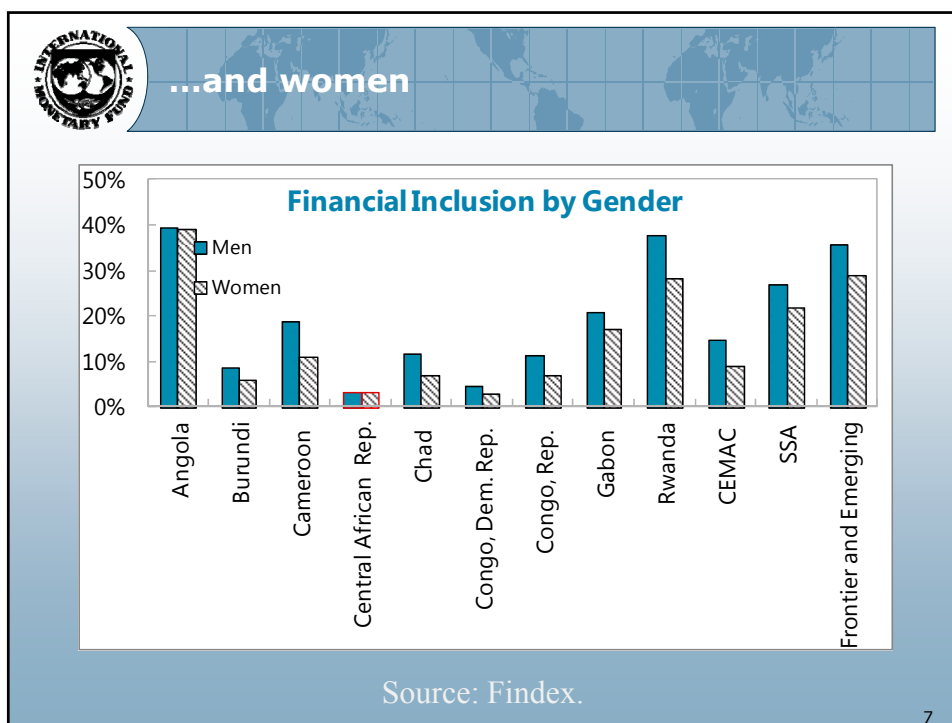




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Country comparison are useful but benchmarking

● **Step1: identify the benchmark**

Financial
Sector
Development

Economic
development

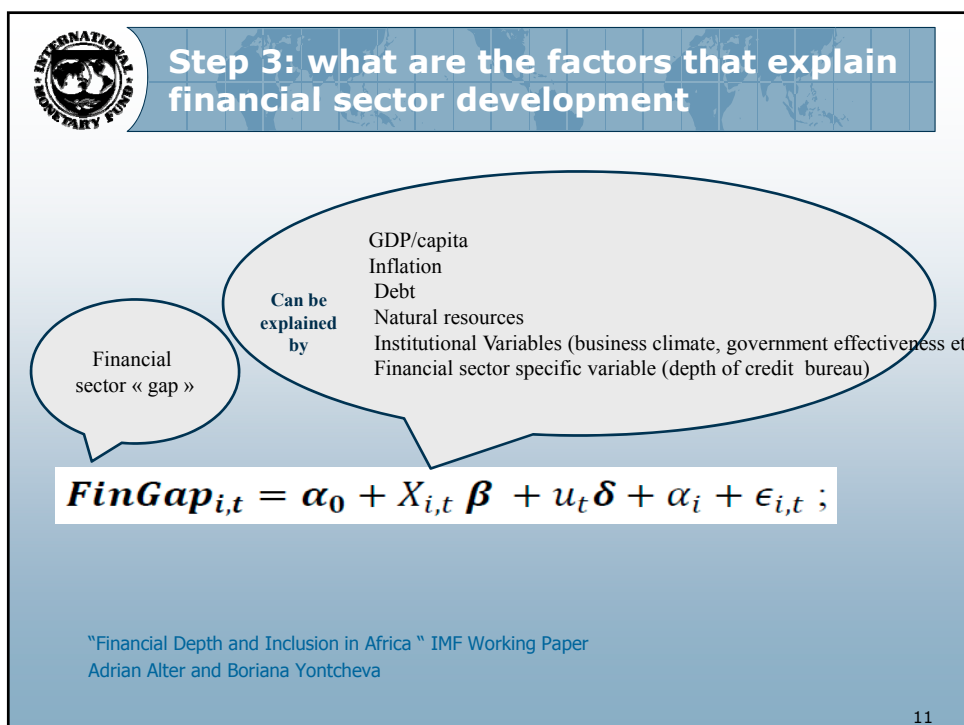
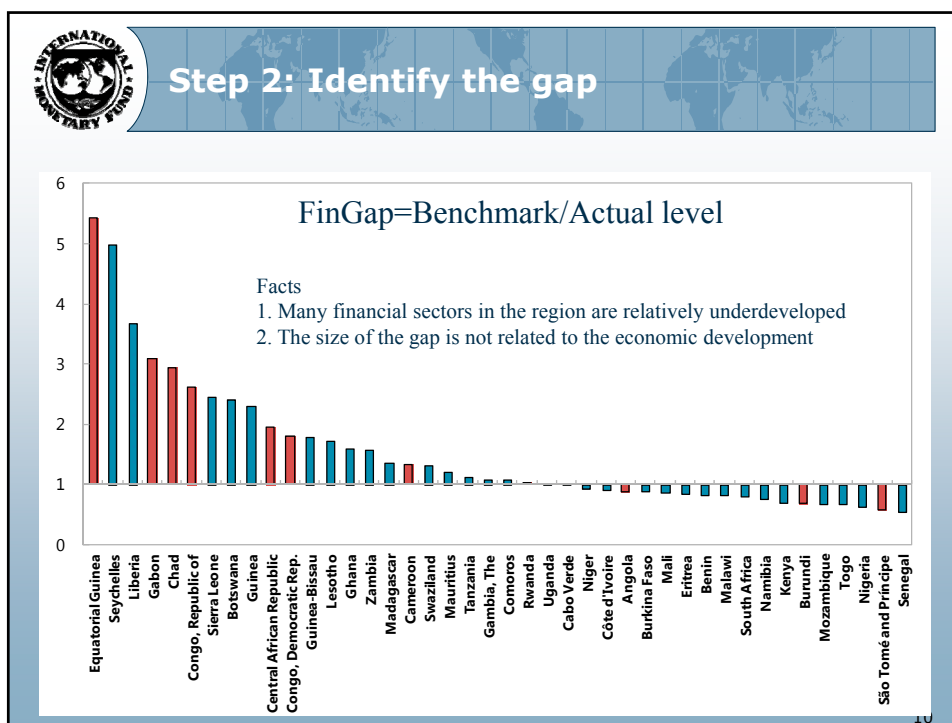
Population/
Démographics

« Special » circumstances
Offshore center,
oil exporters etc

$$X_t = \alpha Y_t + \beta P_t + \gamma Z_t + \varepsilon_t$$

● (tool: World Bank: FINSTAT)

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Factors explaining financial sectors development in Africa

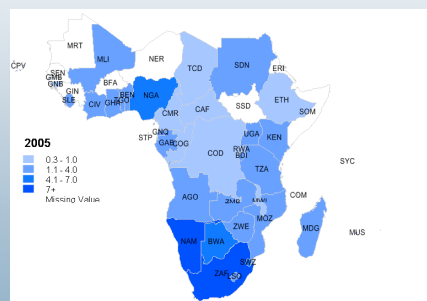
- As expected and elsewhere macroeconomics (inflation and GDP) matter
- CFA zone countries with better business climate and better institutions have more developed financial sectors
- Countries with more developed credit bureau coverage have more developed financial sectors

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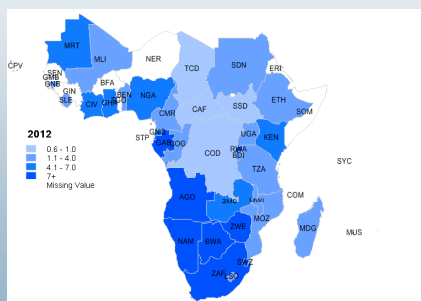


Financial access varies across SSA but some countries have seen a very rapid improvement

**Commercial bank branches
(per 100,000 adults), 2005**



**Commercial bank branches
(per 100,000 adults), 2012**

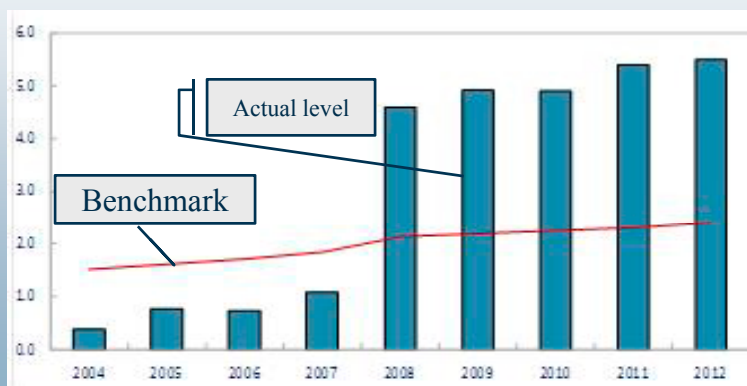


Source: Findex.



Financial access varies across SSA but some countries have seen a very rapid improvement

● **Example: Rwanda:** Number of bank branches per 100,000 inhabitants.



Source: Finstat



Potential reforms

