

# Grassroots Merchant Mapping and Wallet Upgrades Extend Bitcoin Payments

Bitcoin Payment Adoption Tracker

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## Grassroots Merchant Mapping and Wallet Upgrades Extend Bitcoin Payments

*By Bitcoin Payment Adoption Tracker • July 2, 2026*

BTCMap-linked merchant activity in Kenya and Zambia, a Bitcoin-selling flea market in El Salvador, and QR-based relief donations to Venezuela all point to continued grassroots payment use. Infrastructure also moved forward with Blink’s non-custodial accounts, Lightning Enable’s L402 compatibility testing, and BTCPay Server’s reporting improvements, while no new payment-specific regulation or transaction-volume disclosures were cited.

### Major Adoption News

#### Kenya — three merchant endpoints highlighted on BTCMap

Bitcoin Chama highlighted three merchants — `meshack100@blink.sv`, `rachael@8333.mobi`, and `Kemunto@blink.sv` — and provided BTCMap locations for each [1, 2, 3].

**Business impact:** BTCMap visibility makes merchant endpoints easier to discover and improves the practical usability of Bitcoin for in-person spending when adoption is distributed across many small merchants.

#### El Salvador — Berlín Flea Market invites vendors to sell for Bitcoin

Bitcoin Berlín SV said the Berlín Flea Market on **July 4-5** is accepting vendor registrations for sellers who want to price and sell items for Bitcoin [4].

**Business impact:** This is a multi-vendor commerce setting rather than a single-store example, giving Bitcoin a direct role in short-cycle retail activity.

## Venezuela — Bitcoin donations are being used for earthquake relief

MOTIV Perú said Bitcoin donations for Venezuela earthquake relief fund **250 meals served every day**, along with hygiene and cleaning kits, with direct distribution and no intermediaries; donations are accepted via QR code scan [5].

**Business impact:** This extends Bitcoin’s payment role beyond retail into humanitarian transfers, where fast routing and direct disbursement are central to the use case.

## Payment Infrastructure

### Global — Blink Wallet adds non-custodial accounts while keeping Lightning payment functions

Blink Wallet said non-custodial accounts are now live on iOS and Android [6]. It also said Lightning addresses, QR codes, instant payments, and Dollar Balance stay the same, while users now receive a 12-word recovery phrase and hold their own keys [7]. Blink framed the change as a continuation of its goal of making bitcoin usable as everyday money, moving beyond the earlier custodial-Lightning model through newer layer 2 possibilities [8, 9].

**Significance:** For payment adoption, this reduces the usual trade-off between self-custody and ease of use. Blink also made the operating trade-off explicit: it cannot recover funds if a user loses access [7].

### Global — Lightning Enable tests the full L402 payment flow for agentic commerce

Lightning Enable said agentic commerce needs wallets and Lightning infrastructure that can handle **L402** cleanly [10]. It is testing compatibility across Lightning wallets, NWC providers, node stacks, and payment gateways for the sequence **402 Payment Required** → Lightning payment → proof returned → paid API/tool access [10].

**Significance:** This pushes Bitcoin payments beyond human checkout into machine-mediated paid access, with interoperability across the payment stack as the main requirement.

### Global — BTCPay Server improves date and timezone handling

Nicolas Dorier said BTCPay Server is improving how it handles dates and timezones, including date filters that make more sense [11].

**Significance:** This is a smaller but practical merchant-operations update, especially for payment records and reporting across time zones.

## Regulatory Landscape

### Africa

No legal or regulatory changes affecting Bitcoin payments were cited in the supplied material for African markets.

### Latin America

No legal or regulatory changes affecting Bitcoin payments were cited in the supplied material for Latin American markets.

### Global infrastructure

No new policy or compliance changes were cited for Blink, Lightning Enable, or BTCPay Server in this batch.

## Usage Metrics

The supplied material did **not** include transaction-volume totals, merchant processing figures, or active-user counts. The clearest disclosed figures were operational:

- **Kenya:** 3 merchant endpoints were highlighted on BTCMap by Bitcoin Chama [1, 2, 3]
- **Zambia:** 1 merchant in Livingstone was highlighted with a Lightning address and BTCMap listing [12]
- **El Salvador:** the Berlín Flea Market is scheduled for **July 4-5** [4]
- **Venezuela relief:** Bitcoin donations are supporting **250 meals served every day**, plus hygiene and cleaning kits [5]

## Emerging Markets

### Africa — grassroots merchant visibility remains the clearest signal

This batch's African payment activity was merchant-led rather than enterprise-led: three BTCMap-linked merchant endpoints were highlighted in Kenya, and another merchant endpoint was highlighted in Livingstone, Zambia [1, 2, 3, 12].

**Why it matters:** The pattern is small-scale but practical. Discoverable merchants are what turn wallet capability into places to spend.

### Latin America — Bitcoin payments appeared in both market commerce and aid distribution

In El Salvador, a flea market is explicitly inviting vendors to sell for Bitcoin on July 4-5 [4]. Separately, Bitcoin donations are being used for Venezuela earthquake relief through QR-based contributions and direct distribution to affected communities [5].

**Why it matters:** The regional signal is broader than standard retail check-out. The sources show Bitcoin being used in temporary vendor markets and in humanitarian transfers.

## Adoption Outlook

The clearest momentum in this batch came from **practical payment endpoints and payment-enabling infrastructure**, not from regulation or disclosed volume growth. Africa contributed additional mapped merchant endpoints, while Latin America showed Bitcoin being used in both vendor-market sales and urgent aid delivery [1, 2, 3, 4, 5].

On the infrastructure side, Blink’s non-custodial rollout, Lightning Enable’s L402 compatibility work, and BTCPay Server’s operational refinements all point in the same direction: improving the conditions for Bitcoin to function in day-to-day payments, even though this set did not provide transaction totals or regulatory change [6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11].

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## Sources

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4. X post by @BitcoinBerlinSV
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