

Lightning Settlement Benchmarks Clear Cleanly as Merchant Onboarding Remains Local and Uneven

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By Bitcoin Payment Adoption Tracker • August 19, 2026

The strongest signal is a reproducible machine-payment benchmark, alongside an Agbozume merchant endpoint, Bali merchant training, and a Brazilian Lightning-node retirement. The period still offers pilots and proxy metrics rather than a live, geographically broad payment-growth series.

Major Adoption News

Agbozume — a promoted merchant endpoint, not confirmed new onboarding. Bitcoin Dua posted the Blink address `senanustore@blink.sv` and a BTC Map listing for Sena Store. [1] The listing places the store on Amukoe Avenue and shows Lightning, Bitcoin and contactless acceptance, but also flags the location as needing a survey. [2] BTC Map activity says BitcoinDua created and updated the listing five months ago. [2] The business-impact signal is improved discoverability through a lightweight Lightning endpoint, not evidence of a newly onboarded merchant, a completed payment or payment volume.

El Salvador — Bitcoin-funded dental care continues and plans to expand. BitcoinSmiles says 2,971 Bitcoiners raised 1.97 BTC for dental care, and that the bitcoin is still paying for care; the initiative plans a second treatment room in Santa Ana. [3] This is donation-funded service delivery rather than retail acceptance, but it is a concrete recurring payment use case with a stated expansion path. The source does not provide payment frequency or current-period funding figures.

Payment Infrastructure

Global machine-to-machine payments — the strongest technical signal is reproducible testing, not live usage. Lightning Enable reported 22 L402 challenge/verify tests passing, with 1,000-, 100,000- and 1-million-run tests completed and reconciled. Its isolated regtest Lightning settlement suite completed 30,000 consecutive paid flows and 42,562 total settled payments with zero failures. [4] The project describes the target as an agentic-commerce stack combining scalable L402 authorization, scoped access and real Lightning settlement. [5] This raises confidence in the repeatability of automated payment flows, but the regtest setting and self-reported benchmark do not establish production throughput, user demand or network-wide reliability.

Self-hosted merchant infrastructure — BTCPay Server moved closer to its next release. BTCPay released v2.4.3-rc6 and said it should be the final release candidate before the fully open-source v2.4.3 release, planned later in the week; operators were directed to update through Server Settings > Maintenance. [6] The preceding rc4 notice characterized the branch as a security update, recommended upgrading, and flagged NFC as opt-in with the Phoenixd plugin temporarily incompatible. [7] The current signal is therefore release hardening and operator maintenance, not a new checkout capability.

Brazil — a local Lightning node is being retired. Praia Bitcoin said it was shutting down one of Brazil’s oldest Lightning nodes while preparing the project’s “legacy,” but explicitly said it was not giving up on Bitcoin. [8] The post supplies no replacement, capacity measure or payment-service impact, so this is best read as a local infrastructure transition rather than evidence of a national pullback.

Regulatory Landscape

No direct regulatory development affecting Bitcoin payment legality, tax treatment or legal-tender status is included from the grounded current-period items reviewed.

Usage Metrics

The period’s quantitative signals are useful but not comparable as a payment-adoption series:

- **Lightning Enable:** 22 protocol tests; 1,000/100,000/1-million-run reconciliations; 30,000 consecutive paid flows; 42,562 settled payments; zero failures. These are isolated engineering benchmarks, not live-network transaction volume. [4]
- **BitcoinSmiles, El Salvador:** 2,971 donors and 1.97 BTC raised for care. This is a cumulative program-funding measure, not a merchant-adoption rate. [3]

- **BitBiashara:** 47 Coffee Hangouts and 47 Bitcoin conversations over one year. This measures recurring community outreach, not payment count or merchant throughput. [9]
- **Sena Store, Agbozume:** the current post supplies an endpoint and directory record but no transaction amount, count or repeat-use measure; the directory’s survey warning further limits its use as a verified adoption statistic. [1, 2]

Emerging Markets

Bali — merchant onboarding is being organized as a recurring local program. Bitcoin House Bali’s September schedule includes community meetups, a hands-on beginner workshop, a Bahasa meetup and a dedicated “Bitcoin for merchants onboarding session.” [10] This is a clear grassroots pipeline for expanding acceptance, but it remains a planned training activity: no merchants, payment processor, transaction count or implementation result is stated.

Kibera — wallet-led education is positioned as the bridge to first use. Afribit Kibera says its sequence is “Education → Understanding → Adoption → Usage” and that it introduces first-time users to Blink and Fedi as simple wallets. [11] The model lowers the first-use barrier in a community setting, but the post reports neither completed payments nor merchant growth.

El Salvador — local-business adoption is being addressed through practical discussion. Bitcoin Berlin SV said its Monday Meeting covered common questions about using Bitcoin and how local businesses can adopt it. [12] A linked discussion framed the distinction as Bitcoin circulating through payment interactions rather than sitting unused in a wallet. [13] This is demand formation and merchant education, not evidence of a quantified rollout.

Adoption Outlook

The period adds depth more than scale. Grassroots access is visible through the Agbozume Blink/BTC Map endpoint, planned merchant onboarding in Bali, and wallet- and education-led pathways in Kibera and El Salvador. [1, 10, 11, 12] In parallel, Lightning Enable’s clean isolated settlement benchmark shows that machine-payment infrastructure is being tested with more rigor than a demonstration alone. [4]

The limiting evidence is equally concrete: the Agbozume listing needs surveying and predates the current post by five months, the largest payment count is from regtest, and the other numbers count donors or conversations rather than purchases. [2, 4] The defensible conclusion is expanding enablement and experimentation—not yet measured live merchant growth or geographically broad Lightning payment volume.

Sources

1. X post by @bitcoin__dua
2. Sena Store - BTC Map
3. X post by @pavlenex
4. X post by @lightningenable
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6. X post by @BtcpayServer
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