

# Livingstone’s 115+ Merchants and New Lightning Rails Broaden Bitcoin Payments

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## Livingstone’s 115+ Merchants and New Lightning Rails Broaden Bitcoin Payments

*By Bitcoin Payment Adoption Tracker • March 28, 2026*

Livingstone’s 115+ merchants provide the clearest adoption signal this cycle, while Aperture’s L402 upgrade and Machankura’s USSD setup expand the payment stack. Grassroots spending examples from Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Guatemala, and LATAM show continued operational momentum, with no new regulatory changes cited.

### Major Adoption News

#### Zambia — Livingstone reaches city-scale merchant density

Livingstone has **115+ verified Bitcoin merchants** in a city of **177,000**, spanning restaurants, markets, and the airport [1].

**Business impact:** This is one of the clearest city-level merchant-density signals in the current source set. The merchant mix shows Bitcoin acceptance across both everyday retail and travel-linked venues [1].

#### Latin America — SatoshiPlayroom connects education, rewards, and sats-based gameplay

SatoshiPlayroom says its academy lives inside a platform where users also play dominó and poker with real sats, and graduates receive **21 sats** deposited to their balance [2, 3]. Related posts in the same thread cite **15 graduates in 3 days** in one post and **16 graduates in 72 hours** in another, with participants from different countries and most scoring 100/100 [4, 5, 6].

**Business impact:** The cited model combines onboarding, incentives, and immediate sats use inside one product flow rather than separating education from payment activity [2, 3].

## Guatemala — first Lightning transactions reported

Blink said **Guatemala completed its first Lightning transactions** [1].

**Business impact:** In the current materials, this is the clearest country-level signal that Lightning use moved from setup to live transactions in Guatemala [1].

## Payment Infrastructure

### Global — Aperture adds paid-API capabilities to Lightning

Aperture **v0.5.0** now supports **L402 + MPP** for paid API endpoints [7]. The new **aperturecli** can dynamically create services, set prices, and query past transactions [7], and it includes a built-in **MCP server mode** [7]. Lightning Enable described the release as growing **L402 infrastructure for agents** [8].

**Significance:** The cited updates expand Lightning from wallet payments into programmable paid services and usage-based API commerce [7].

“x402, MPP, L402 — different rails, same thesis: open protocols beat walled gardens. The agent economy shouldn’t need permission slips.” [9]

Lightning Enable paired that framing with a commerce endpoint at [commerce.lightningenable.com](https://commerce.lightningenable.com) [9].

### Zambia — Machankura lowers connectivity requirements for wallet setup

Bitcoin Campus Zambia said it helped a student set up a **Machankura USSD Bitcoin wallet**, describing the process as **simple, fast, and requiring no internet** [10]. Users can dial **\*384\*8333#** to set up their own wallet [10].

**Significance:** The cited setup shows wallet creation without internet access, lowering the connectivity barrier for Bitcoin payments in Zambia [10].

## Regulatory Landscape

### Africa

No new legal or regulatory changes affecting Bitcoin payments were cited in the provided African material.

### Americas

No new legal or regulatory changes affecting Bitcoin payments were cited in the provided Americas material.

## Middle East / Global

No payment-specific legal changes were cited in the remaining sources. This cycle is dominated by operational signals—merchant onboarding, Lightning tooling, and live transaction examples—rather than policy developments.

## Usage Metrics

Hard transaction-volume data were not included in the provided notes. The clearest quantified signals are merchant density and participation counts.

- **Zambia:** Livingstone has **115+** verified Bitcoin merchants in a city of **177,000** [1].
- **Latin America:** The SatoshiPlayroom thread reports **15 graduates in 3 days** in one post and **16 graduates in 72 hours** in another, with **21 sats** awarded to each graduate [4, 5, 3].
- **Guatemala:** First Lightning transactions were reported, but no transaction count was disclosed [1].

## Emerging Markets

### Ghana — supermarket checkout in Akatsi

PeacePot Supermarket in **Akatsi, Ghana** accepts Bitcoin payments in **sats** via **Blink**, with one cited example showing a customer buying a drink. The merchant is also listed on BTC Map [11].

**Why it matters:** This places Bitcoin at supermarket checkout for a low-ticket consumer purchase [11].

### Nigeria — cooking gas purchases in Ekiti State

In **Ekiti State, Nigeria**, a merchant accepts Bitcoin sats to fill **cooking gas cylinders** via Blink and is listed on BTC Map [12].

**Why it matters:** The cited use case extends Bitcoin spending into a household utility purchase [12].

### Kenya — rural savings group spent sats on essential goods

Blink said a **rural Kenya** savings group bought a **goat and a mattress** with sats [1].

**Why it matters:** The purchase category goes beyond snacks or drinks into shared household and productive needs [1].

### South Africa — low-ticket retail remains visible in Bitcoin Ekasi

A buyer used Bitcoin to purchase an **energy drink** at **Kwallo's shop**, which is listed on BTC Map and associated with a Blink address [13].

**Why it matters:** Low-value purchases remain one of the clearest tests of point-of-sale usability [13].

### Iran / cross-border — remittances remain part of the payment story

“To send money to Iranian friends & family from abroad, bitcoin is the least friction and guaranteed-to-work option in 2026” [14]

**Why it matters:** This is a user-level remittance claim rather than a market-wide metric, but it still points to cross-border payments as an active Bitcoin use case [14].

## Adoption Outlook

The strongest signals this cycle are operational. **Livingstone** stands out for merchant density, **Aperture** adds new Lightning payment rails for paid APIs, and grassroots spending continues to appear in **Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Guatemala, and LATAM platforms** [1, 7, 11, 12, 2].

The main constraint is still measurement. Outside the **115+ merchant** figure in Livingstone and the SatoshiPlayroom participation counts, the sources provide little hard data on transaction volumes or merchant revenue. Current momentum is better evidenced by working transactions, merchant listings, and infrastructure releases than by formal payment statistics [1, 5, 4].

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## Sources

1. X post by @blinkbtc
2. X post by @unidosxsatoshi
3. X post by @unidosxsatoshi
4. X post by @unidosxsatoshi
5. X post by @unidosxsatoshi
6. X post by @unidosxsatoshi
7. X post by @roasbeef
8. X post by @lightningenable
9. X post by @lightningenable
10. X post by @btc\_campus\_zm
11. X post by @bitcoin\_aves
12. X post by @BitcoinEkiti
13. X post by @BitcoinEkasi
14. X post by @\_pretyflaco