

William's Update

Remittances

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Abstract

This document is a follow-up to the meeting on September 29th and addresses the items discussed during that meeting. It provides an update on who was contacted regarding the remittance datasets, offers updates on previously problematic PDF file links, and clarifies how the stablecoin/bitcoin cross-border flows dataset works. Most importantly, it presents the extracted remittance data from Remitscope.

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1 Introduction

I have merged Kpodar's dataset with the Remitscope dataset. The following sections present visualizations that highlight the results of this combined analysis.

- To the best of my knowledge, this is currently the most accurate and complete dataset available.
- The next possible step would be to directly access remittance datasets from individual central banks. It may also be worthwhile to focus on specific countries, such as Georgia or the Philippines, as they are significant outliers in terms of the volume of remittance data published.
- Other academic papers suggest that additional remittance data may be available for countries such as Italy and Tonga. For Italy, see the [Bank of Italy Remittance Dataset \(Excel\)](#) (not part of our main dataset).
- Based on Dean Yang’s work, detailed information on remittances for the Philippines can be found from surveyors, central banks, and remittance providers.
- We also found a [South Asia Remittance Dataset \(Harvard Dataverse\)](#). This dataset was compiled by [Professor Mustafizur Rahman](#). While I am not familiar with this institution, the data is reported to originate from the central bank. I would appreciate your thoughts on whether we should consider merging this dataset with ours. The associated dataset link in our repository is available here: [South Asia Dataset \(Excel\)](#).

I have sent out emails to Dean Yang (general/Philippine remittance), Mustafizur Rahman (South Asian remittance), Giulia Bettin (Italy remittance), and Huidan Lin (Tonga).

Data Collection Insights:

Most central banks provide remittance data for the most recent years. For example, if data is collected in 2024, the available range is typically 2019–2024. If collected in 2018, the range would be 2014–2018. This pattern is consistent across most sources I have reviewed.

Remittance Data Construction:

Additionally, the Kpodar dataset provides a more detailed disaggregation of remittances by these metrics. I mention it here for reference, in case it may be of interest for further analysis.

Total remittances received should be calculated as the sum of personal transfers (`personalcr_usd`) and compensation of employees (`compcr_usd`). For countries lacking personal transfer data, workers’ remittances (`workcr_usd`) can be used as a substitute. In the corridor data, remittances are already aggregated.

2 Data Update

I have contacted the authors from [Defying the Odds: Remittances During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

- The Remitscope data is reliable but incomplete
- [Defying the Odds: Remittances During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) provides additional data to the Remitscope data.

The complete merged dataset is available here: [Code/14.csv](#)

3 Data Analysis Results

3.1 Overview

This analysis examines remittance flows using data extracted from Remitscope, and shows how the Remitscope dataset changes upon the addition of Kpodar’s data.

3.1.1 Data Completeness Summary

Data Completeness Summary

- **Total records:** 728 → 3980
- **Date range:** 2019–2024 → 2018–2024
- **Sending countries:** 206 → 257
- **Receiving countries:** 20 (10.3% of world) → 214

3.2 Sending Countries Analysis

The remittance data shows a global distribution of sending countries, with developed nations dominating the top positions:

3.2.1 Top 10 Sending Countries

Sending Country (Remitscope)	Records	→	Sending Country (Merged)	Records
Canada	18	→	Georgia	641
Italy	15	→	Philippines	597
United States of America	15	→	Pakistan	81
Spain	14	→	Brazil	75
France	14	→	Cabo Verde	62
Germany	14	→	Jamaica	54
United Kingdom	12	→	Suriname	51
China	11	→	United States	47
Sweden	10	→	Dominican Republic	47
Switzerland	10	→	Haiti	45

3.3 Receiving Countries Analysis

The receiving countries show a strong concentration in Latin America:

3.3.1 Top 10 Receiving Countries

Receiving Country (Remitscope)	Records	→	Receiving Country (Merged)	Records
Ecuador	183	→	Georgia	639
Mexico	169	→	Philippines	594
Panama	102	→	Ecuador	189
Senegal	38	→	Mexico	178
Kenya	34	→	Panama	114
Colombia	32	→	Brazil	78

Receiving Country (Remitscope)	Records	→	Receiving Country (Merged)	Records
Uganda	20	→	Pakistan	78
Chile	19	→	Jamaica	65
Morocco	19	→	Cabo Verde	60
Ethiopia	17	→	Suriname	57

3.4 Temporal Distribution

The data collection shows significant variation across years:

3.4.1 Records by Year

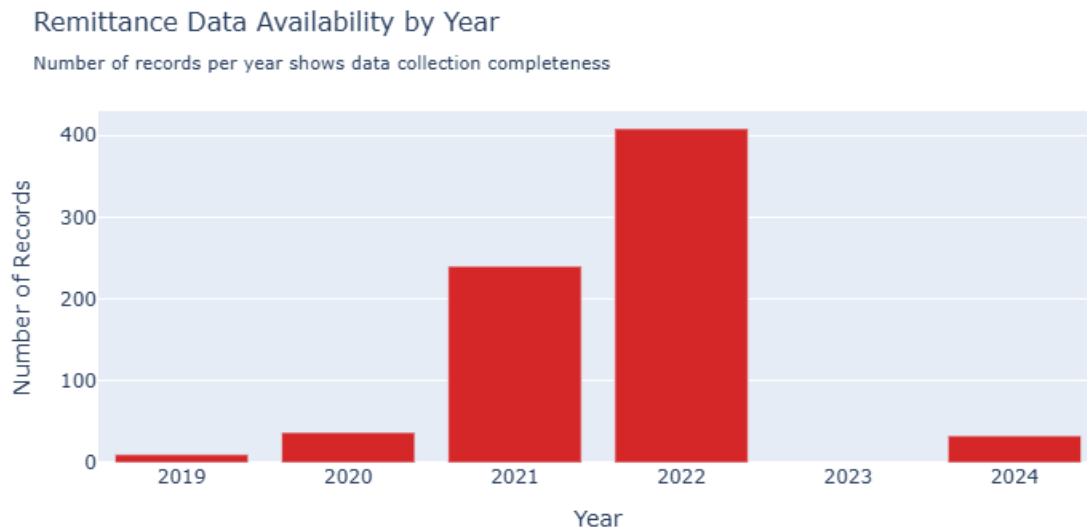


Figure 1: Records by Year

Note: 2023 data is completely missing from the dataset.

The dataset distribution by year after including Kpodar’s data is shown below:

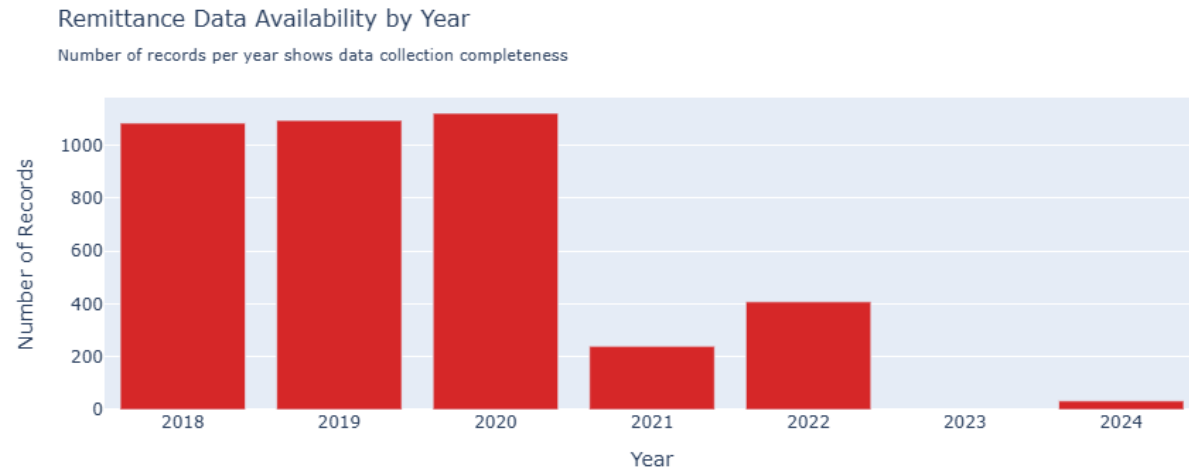


Figure 2: Data Distribution by Year (Merged Dataset)

3.5 Key Findings

- Kpodar's dataset is significantly larger than the Remitscope dataset. Though this is attributed mainly to two countries, Georgia and the Philippines, more details are shown below.
- **Peak Collection:** 2022 shows the highest data collection with 408 records.

4 Visual Analysis

4.1 Sending Countries Analysis

Remittance Data Availability: SENDING Countries

Number of remittance records by sending country

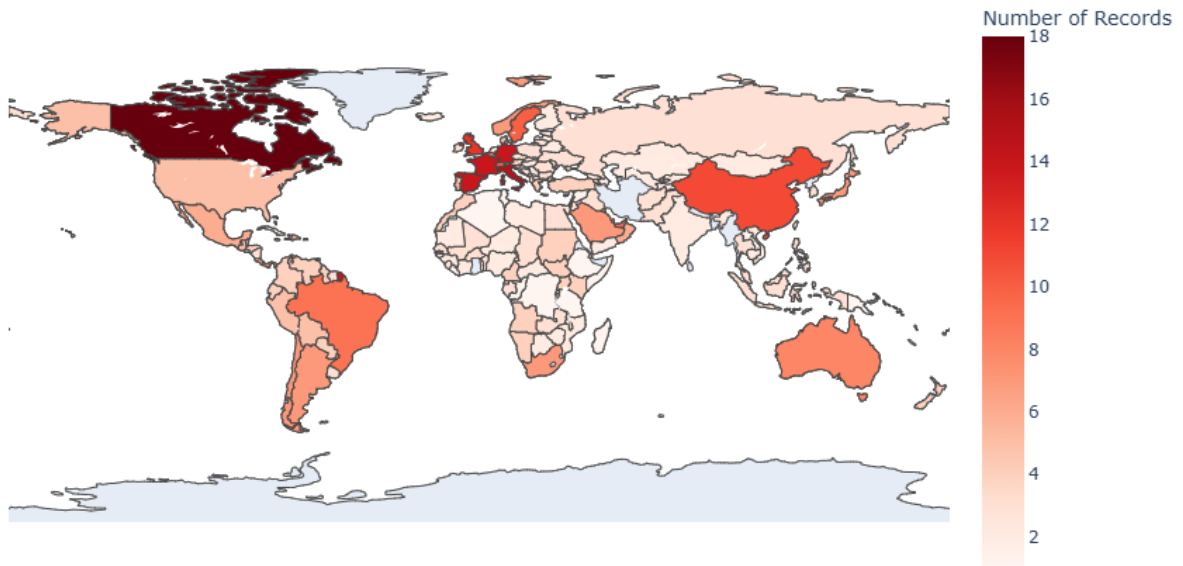


Figure 3: Remitscope Sending Countries Map

Remittance Data Availability: SENDING Countries

Number of remittance records by sending country

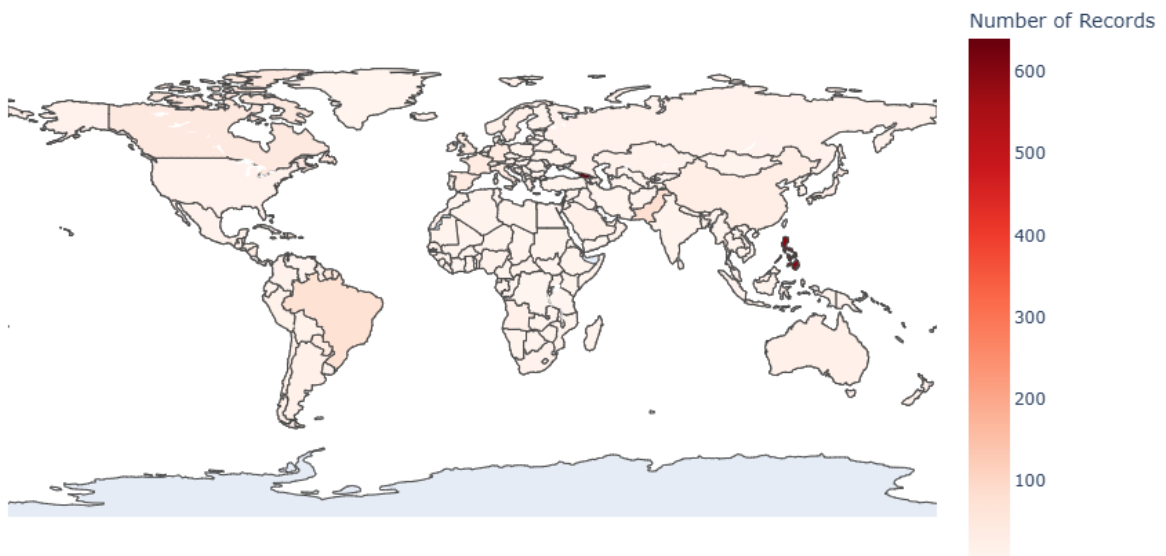


Figure 4: Remitscope and Kpodar Sending countries map

Top 30 Sending Countries:

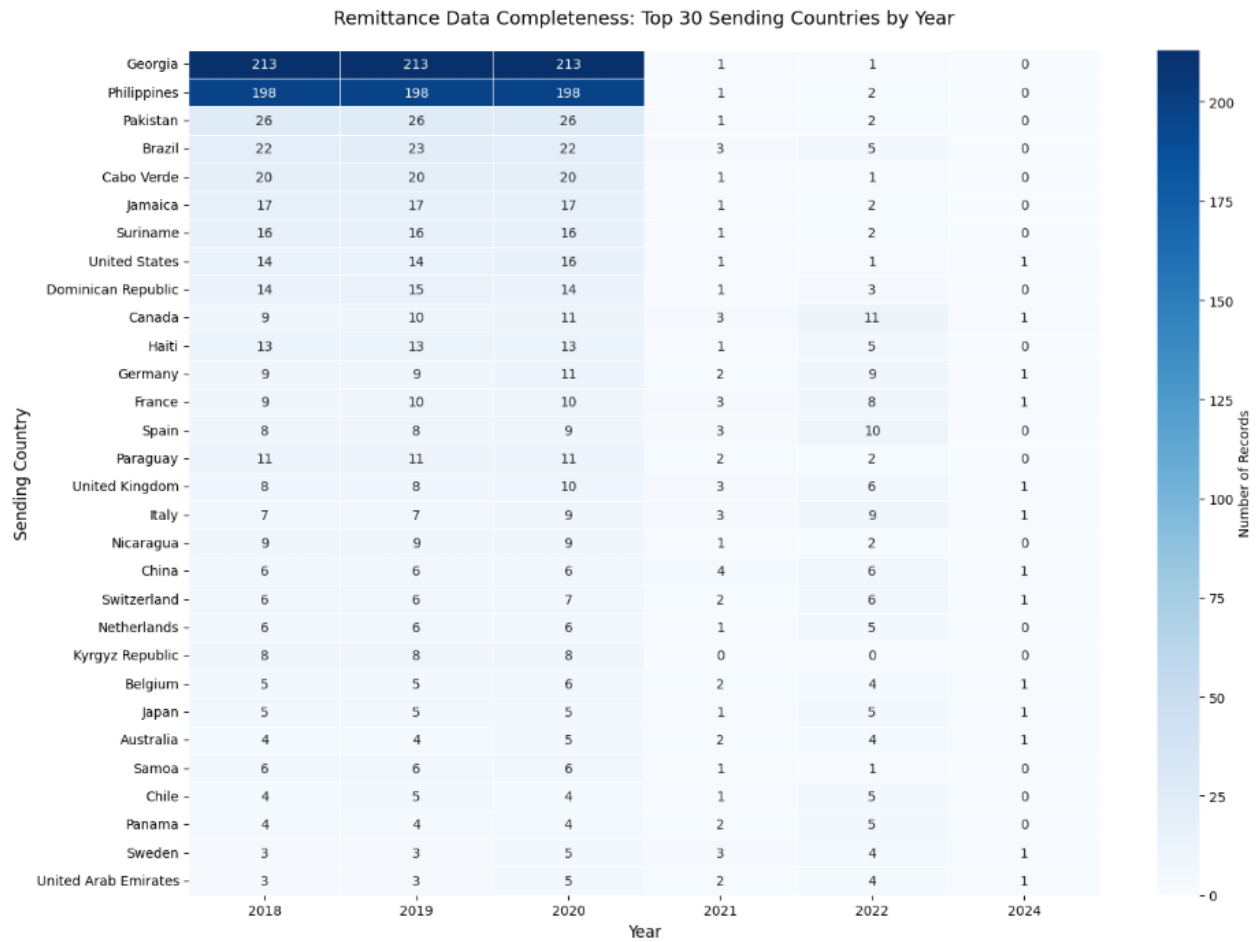


Figure 5: Top 30 Sending Countries: Remitscope and Kpodar

The cross-tabulation heatmap below shows that Georgia and the Philippines dominate the observations. This is likely due to the extensive information provided by their central banks.

4.1.1 Receiving Countries Analysis

Remittance Data Availability: RECEIVING Countries

Number of remittance records by receiving country

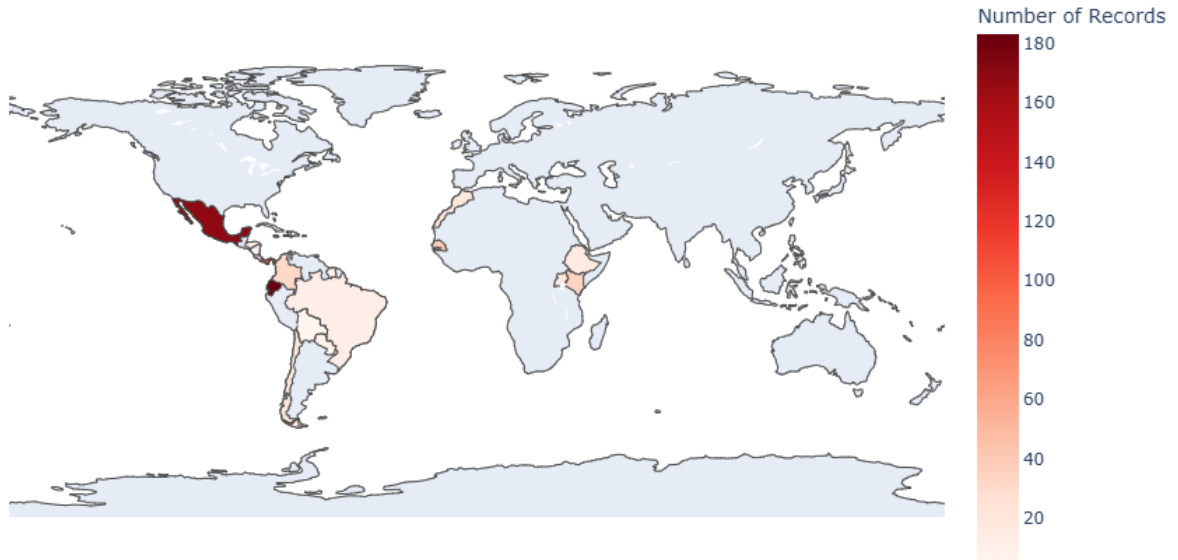


Figure 6: Remitscope Receiving Countries Map

The receiving countries exhibit a strong concentration in Latin America, with Ecuador (183 records) and Mexico (169 records) leading the original dataset.

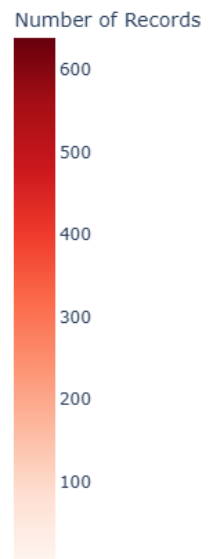


Figure 7: Remitscope and Kpodar Receiving Countries Map

Similar concentration patterns are observed in the cross-tabulation of the top 30 sending countries.

Top 30 Receiving Countries:

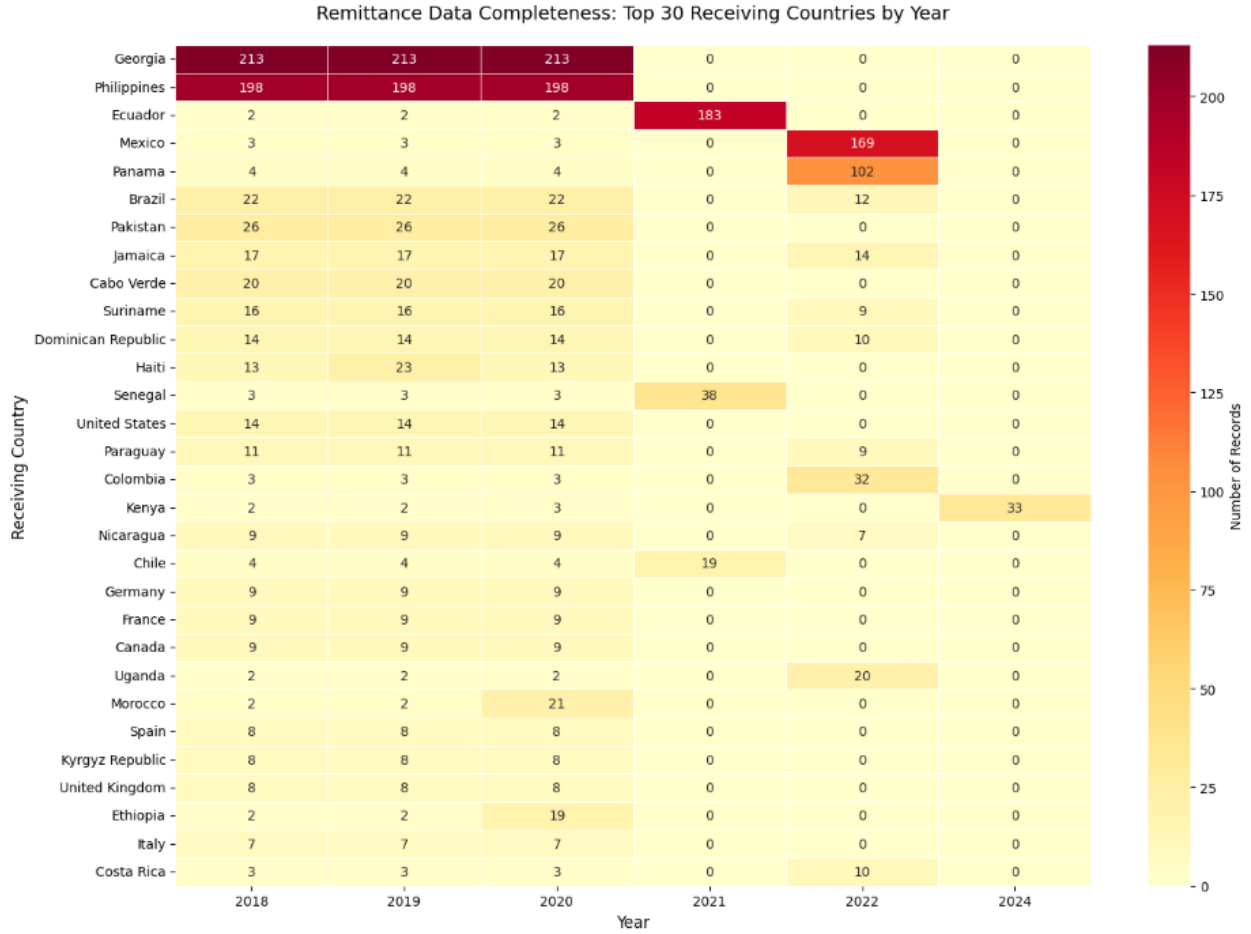


Figure 8: Top 30 Receiving Countries: Remitscope and Kpodar

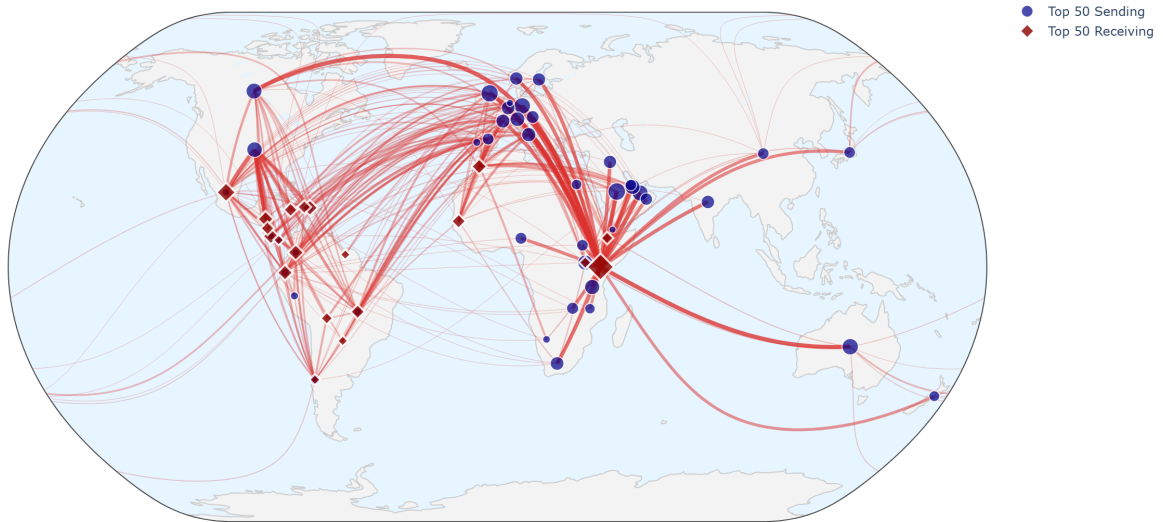
4.2 Data Concentration

- **Top 10 receiving countries:**
 - Remitscope: 633 out of 728 records (87.0%)
 - Merged dataset: 2052 out of 3980 records (51.6%)
- **Top 10 sending countries:**
 - Remitscope: 133 out of 728 records (18.3%)
 - Merged dataset: 1700 out of 3980 records (42.7%)

4.3 Main Flows

Only Remitscope Data:

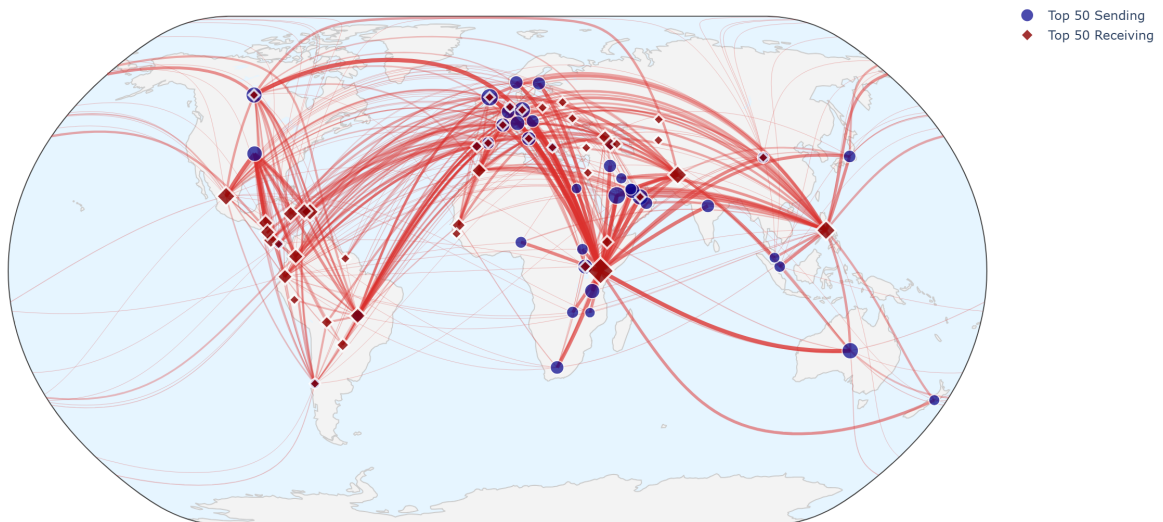
Global Remittance Network (12.csv): Top 50 Sending & Receiving Countries
Largest remittance flows and major players



[View Interactive Map \(HTML\)](#)

With All Data Incorporated:

Global Remittance Network: Top 50 Sending & Receiving Countries
Largest remittance flows and major players



[View Interactive Map \(HTML\)](#)

Complete Global Remittance Network

All flows with small flows differentiated by styling



[View Interactive Map \(HTML\)](#)
