William's Update

Remittances

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September 18, 2025

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.

Table of contents

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

Remitscope Dataset

Country	Records
Canada	18
Italy	15
United States	15
Spain	14
France	14
Germany	14
United Kingdom	12
China	11
Sweden	10
Switzerland	10

Merged Dataset

Country	Records
Georgia	641
Philippines	597
Pakistan	81
Brazil	75
Cabo Verde	62
Jamaica	54
Suriname	51
United States	47
Dominican Republic	47
Haiti	45

Merged (Africa & Latin America)

Country	Records
Georgia	203
Philippines	201
Brazil	27
France	26
Canada	24
Italy	24
Germany	23
Spain	23
Cabo Verde	23
United Kingdom	21

3.3 Receiving Countries Analysis

The receiving countries show a strong concentration in Latin America:

3.3.1 Top 10 Receiving Countries

3.4 Temporal Distribution

The data collection shows significant variation across years:

Remitscope Dataset

Country	Records
Ecuador	183
Mexico	169
Panama	102
Senegal	38
Kenya	34
Colombia	32
Uganda	20
Chile	19
Morocco	19
Ethiopia	17

Merged Dataset

Country	Records
Georgia	639
Philippines	594
Ecuador	189
Mexico	178
Panama	114
Brazil	78
Pakistan	78
Jamaica	65
Cabo Verde	60
Suriname	57

Merged (Africa & Latin America)

Country	Records
Ecuador	189
Mexico	169
Panama	102
Brazil	78
Cabo Verde	60
Suriname	57
Senegal	47
Paraguay	42
Colombia	41
Kenya	40

3.4.1 Records by Year

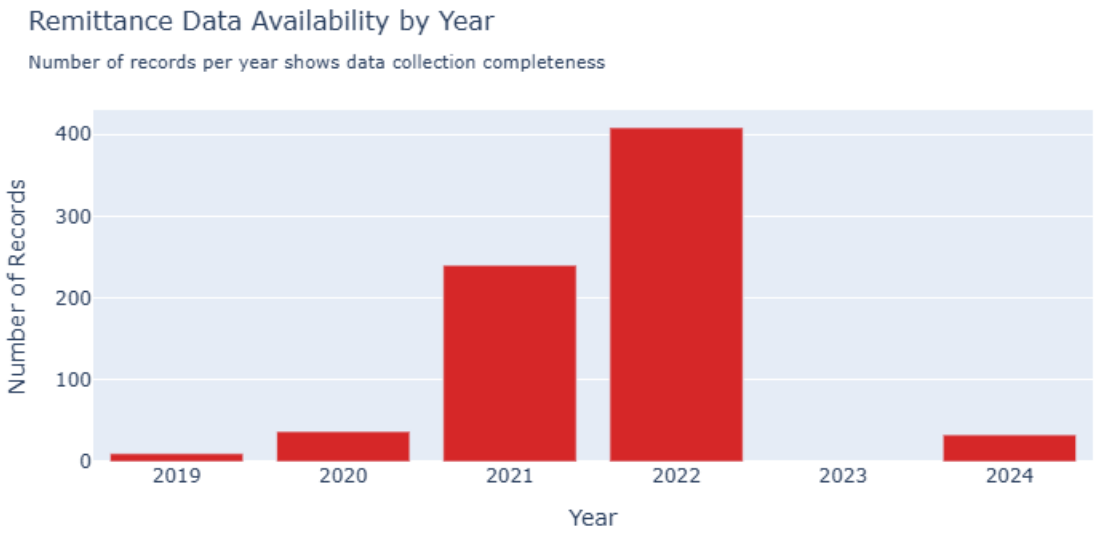


Figure 1: Records by Year

Note: 2023 data is completely missing from the dataset.

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

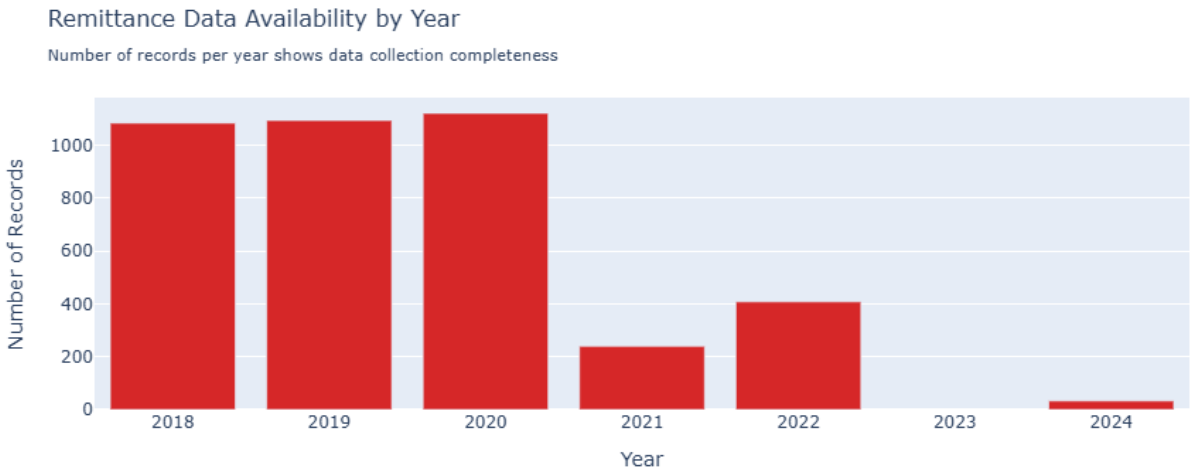


Figure 2: Data Distribution by Year (Merged Dataset)

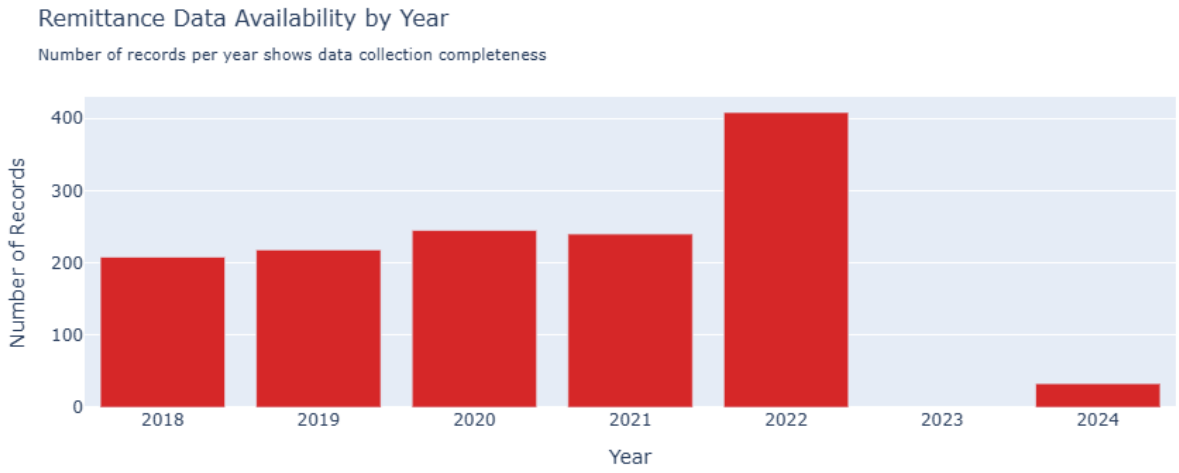


Figure 3: Data Distribution by Year (Merged Dataset - Africa & Latin America)

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.
- Once we limit the dataset to African and Latin American countries, the dataset is more reasonable.
- **Peak Collection**: 2022 shows the highest data collection with 408 records.

4 Visual Analysis

4.1 Sending Countries Analysis

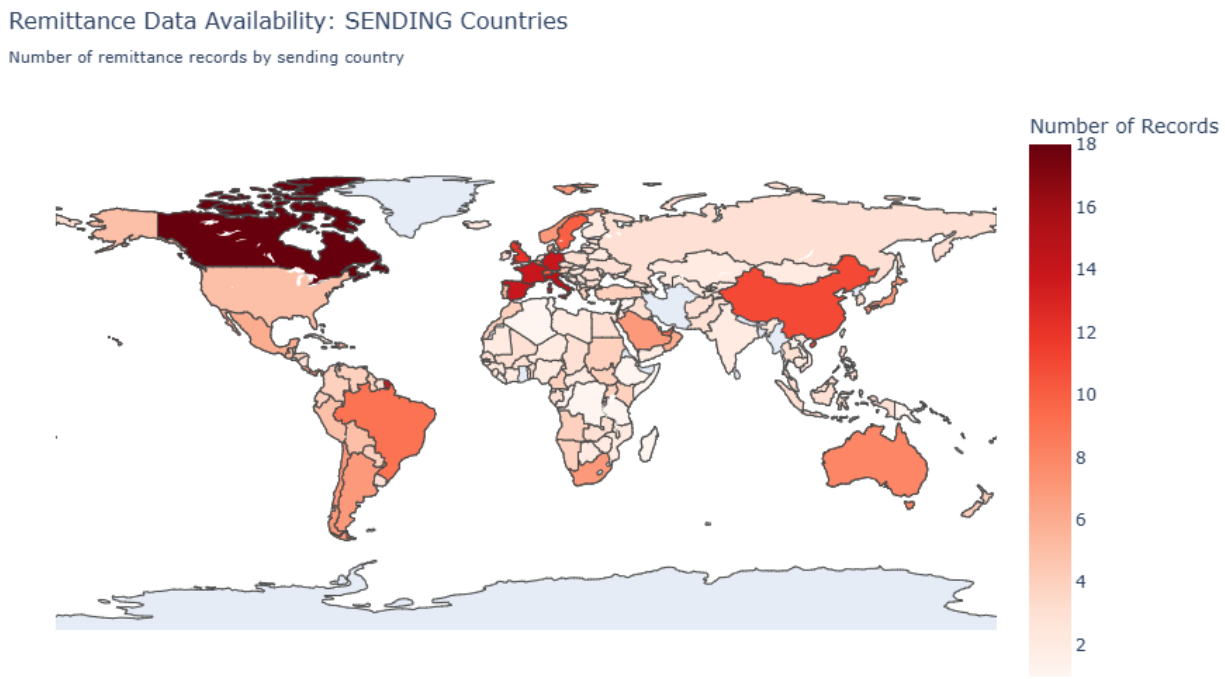


Figure 4: Remitscope Sending Countries Map

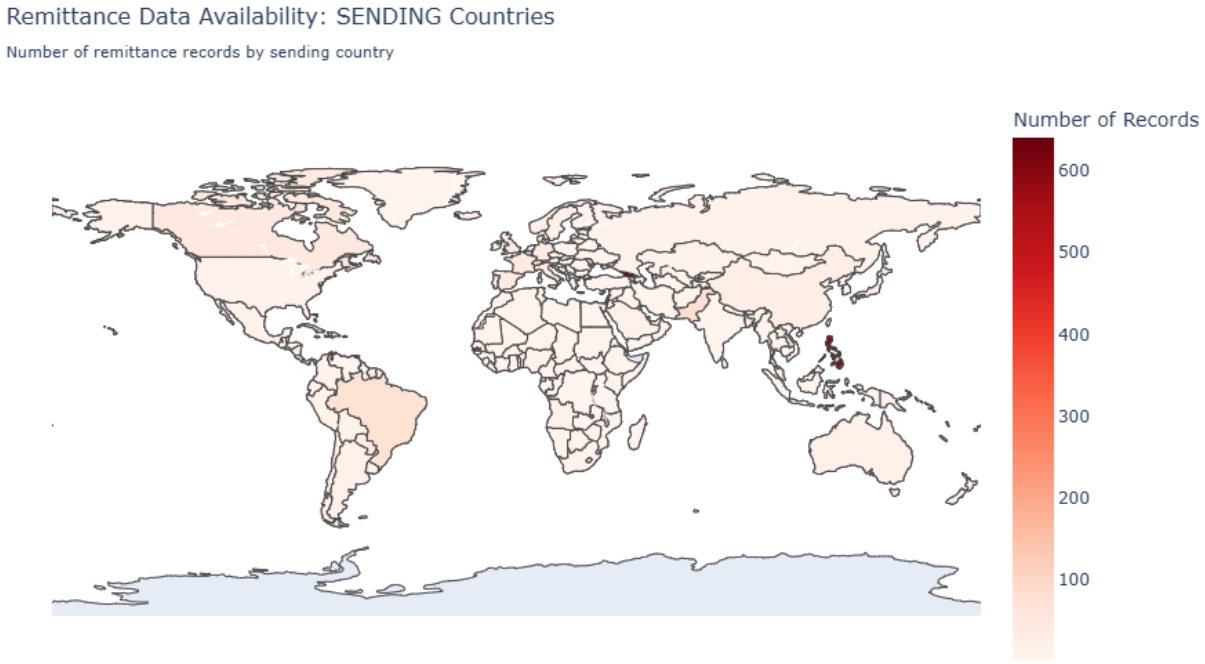


Figure 5: Remitscope and Kpodar Sending countries map

Top 30 Sending Countries:

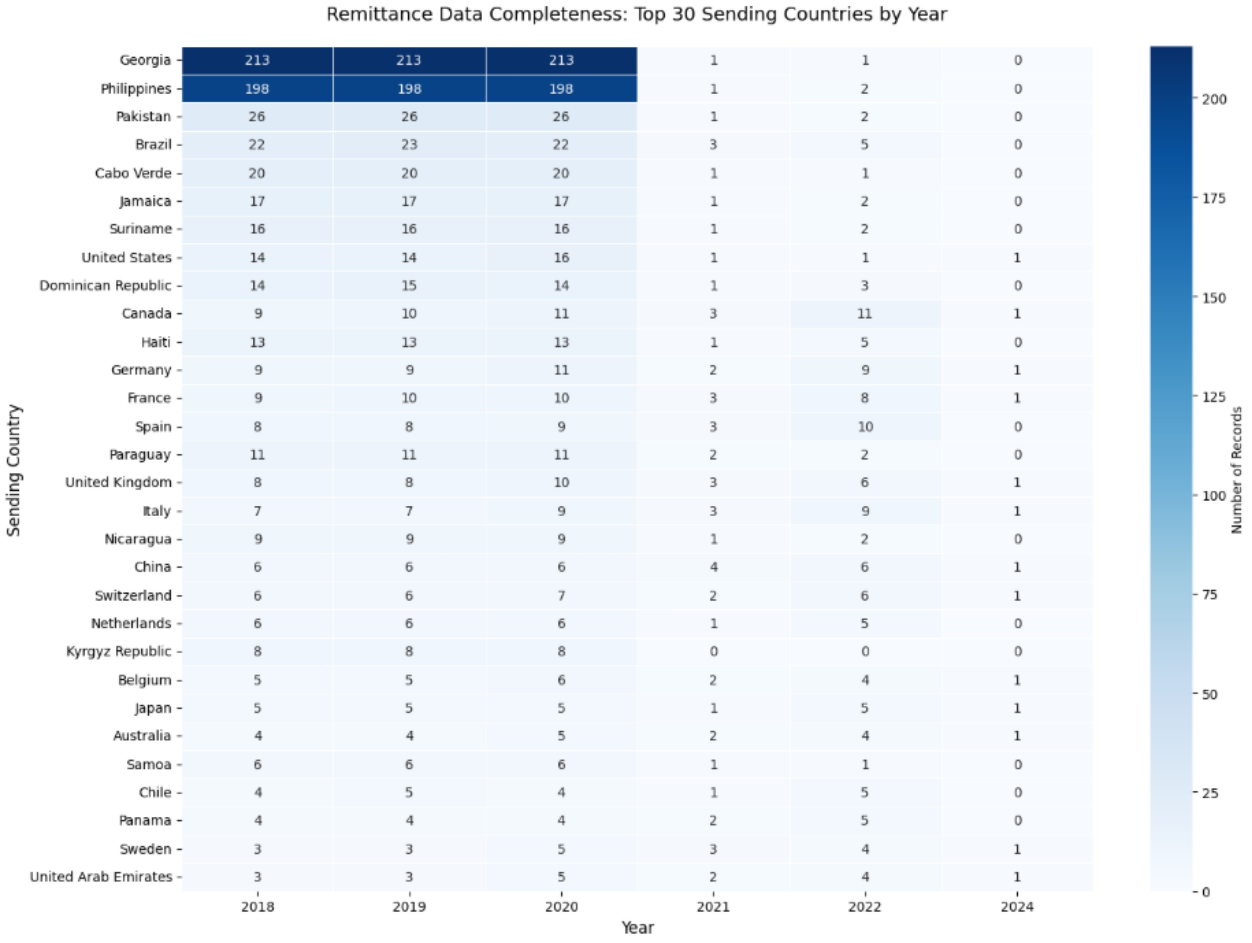


Figure 6: Top 30 Sending Countries: Remitscope and Kpodar

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

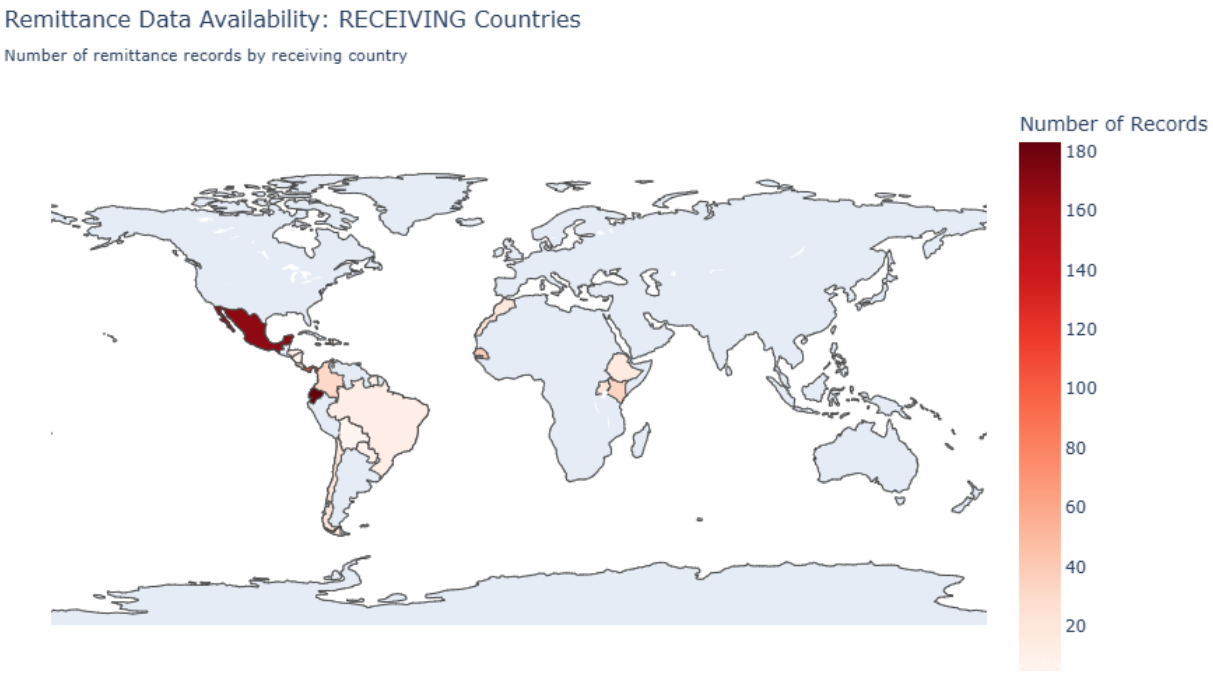


Figure 7: Remitscope Receiving Countries Map

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

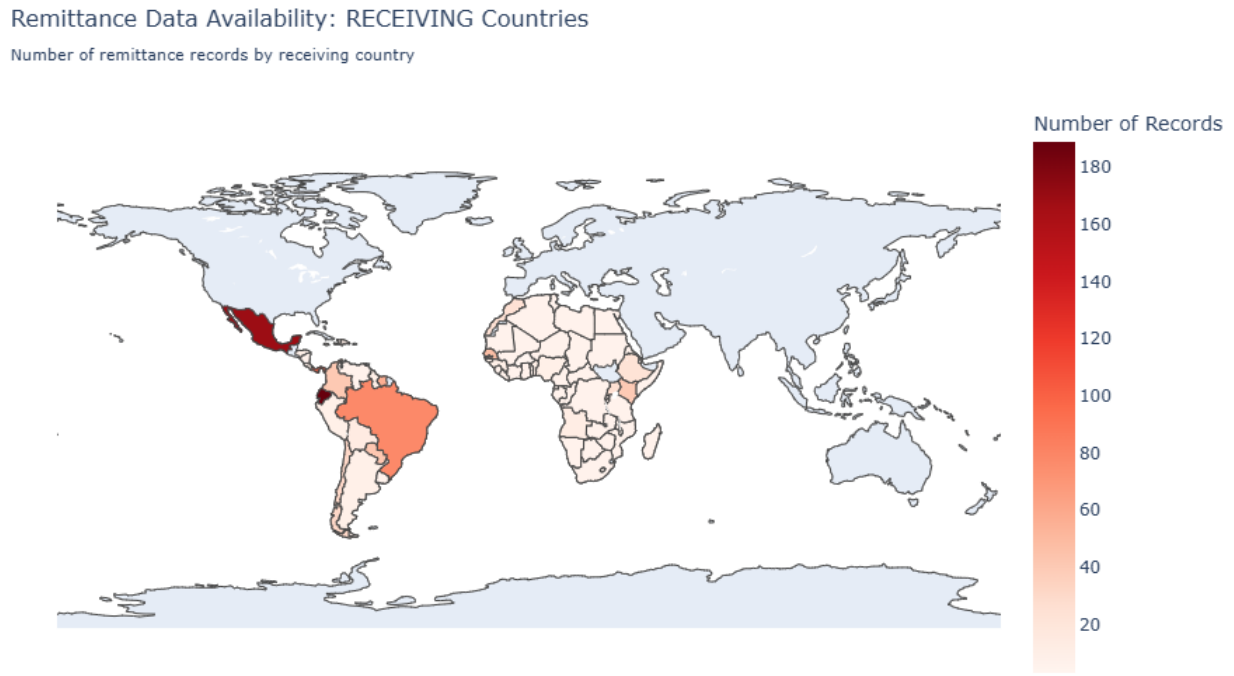


Figure 8: Remitscope Receiving Countries Map (Africa & Latin America)

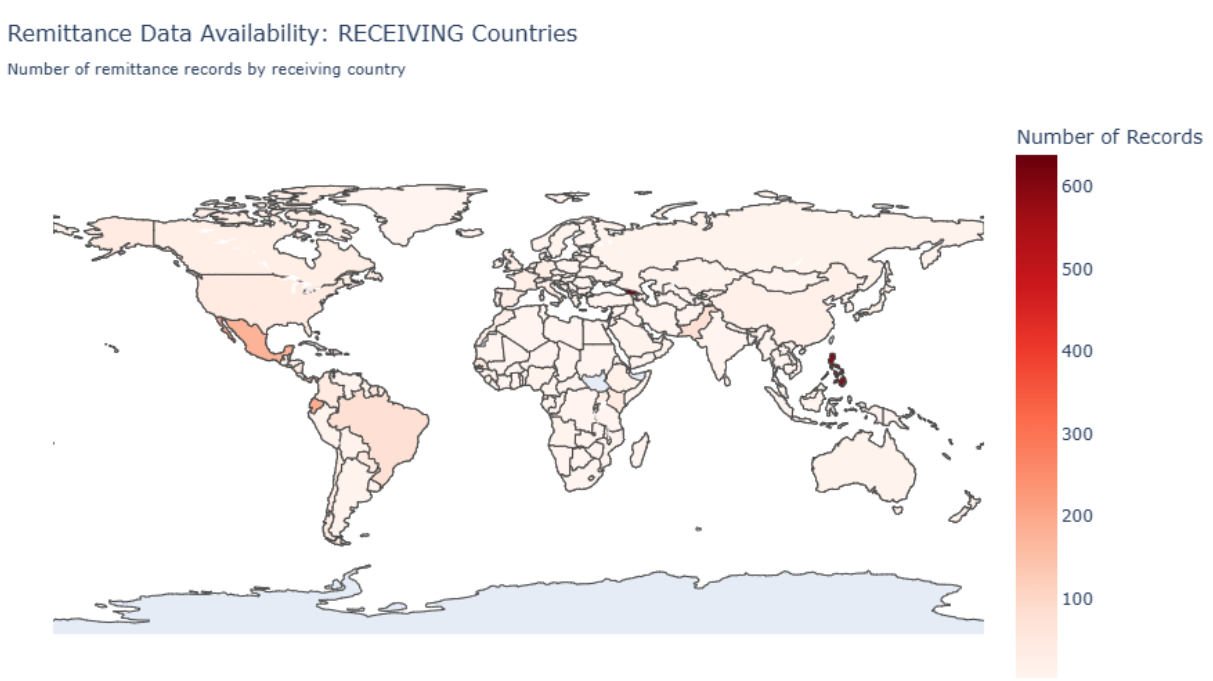


Figure 9: Remitscope and Kpodar Receiving Countries Map

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

Top 30 Receiving Countries:

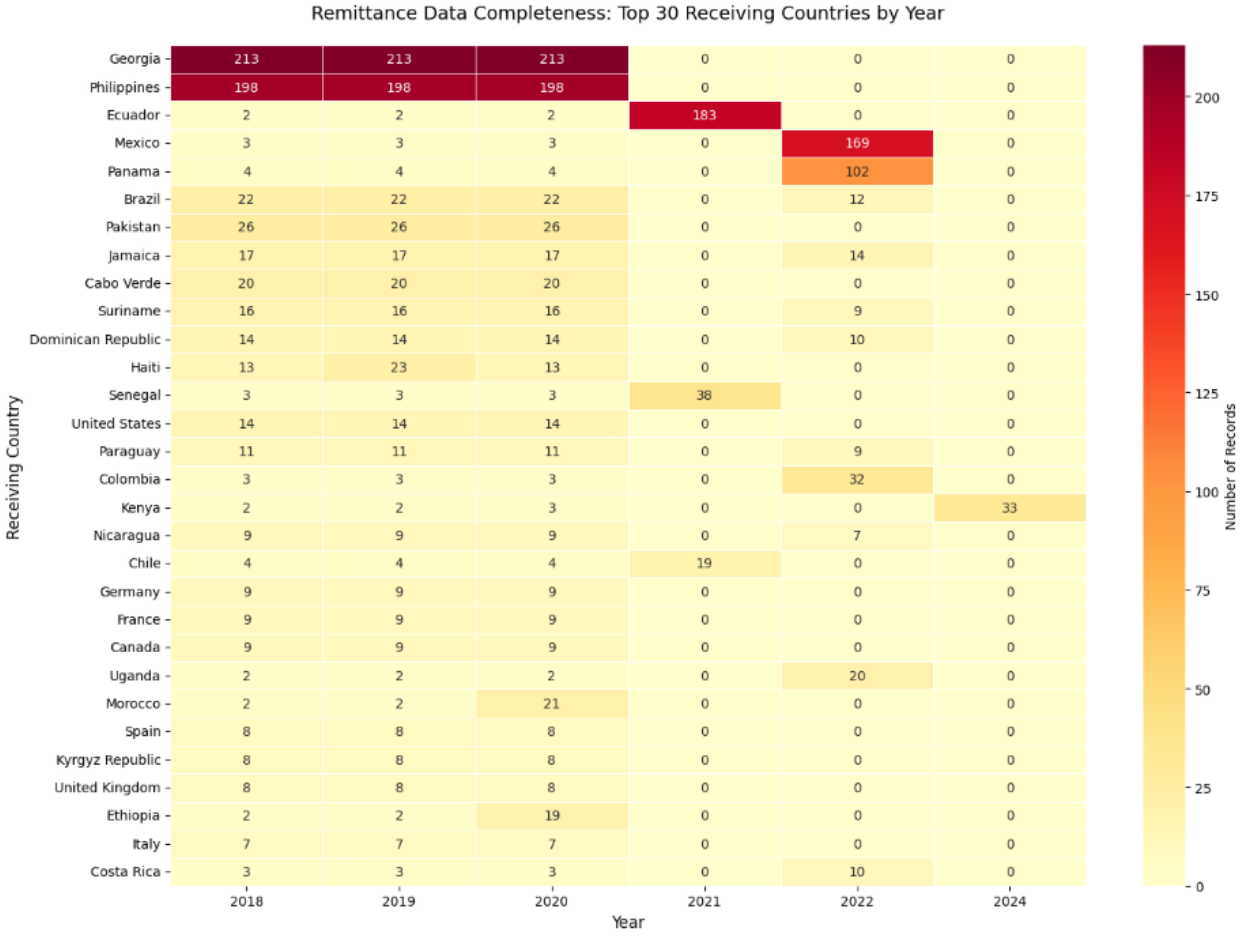


Figure 10: Top 30 Receiving Countries: Remitscope and Kpodar

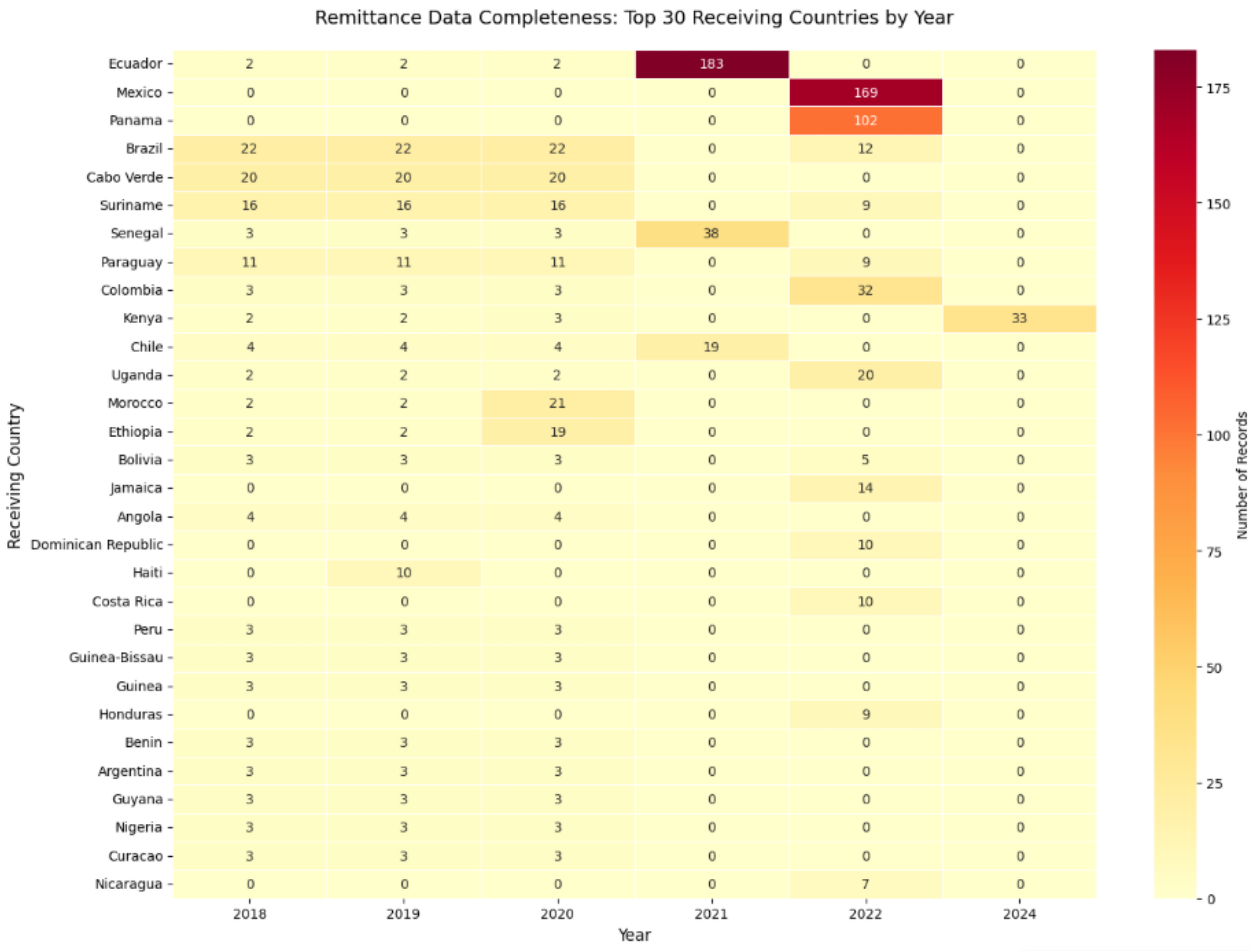


Figure 11: Top 30 Receiving Countries: Remitscope and Kpodar (Africa and Latin America)

4.2 Data Concentration

We investigate whether there is an even distribution of countries by counting the top 10 countries with the most observations and comparing them to total observations.

Remitscope Dataset

Type	Records
Receiving	633/728 (87.0%)
Sending	133/728 (18.3%)

Merged Dataset

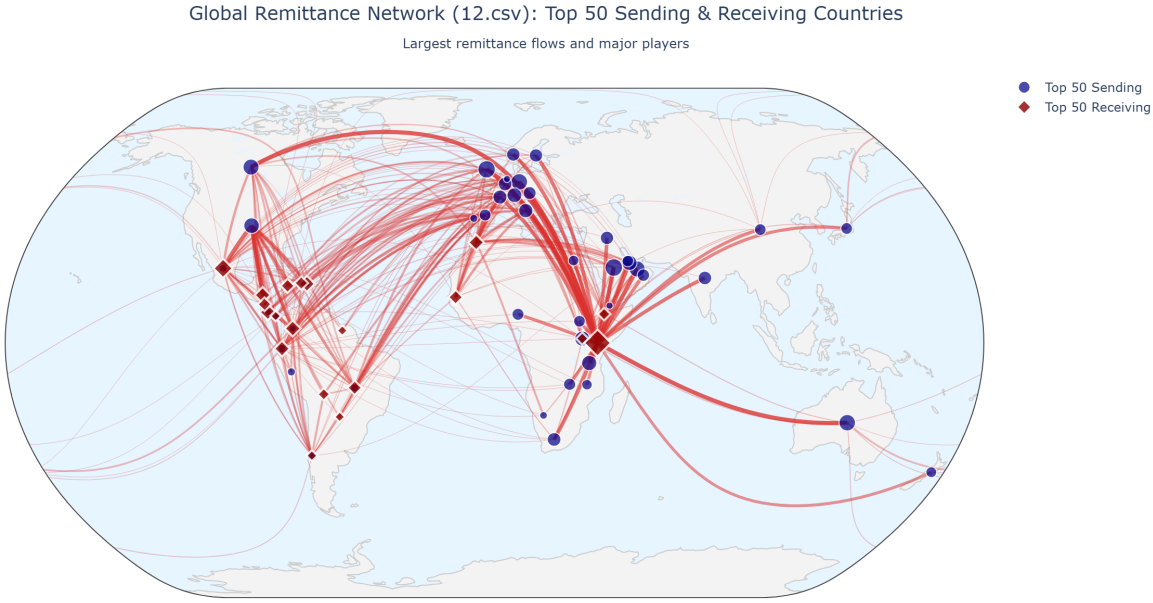
Type	Records
Receiving	2052/3980 (51.6%)
Sending	1700/3980 (42.7%)

Africa & Latin America

Type	Records
Receiving	825/1352 (61.0%)
Sending	595/1352 (44.0%)

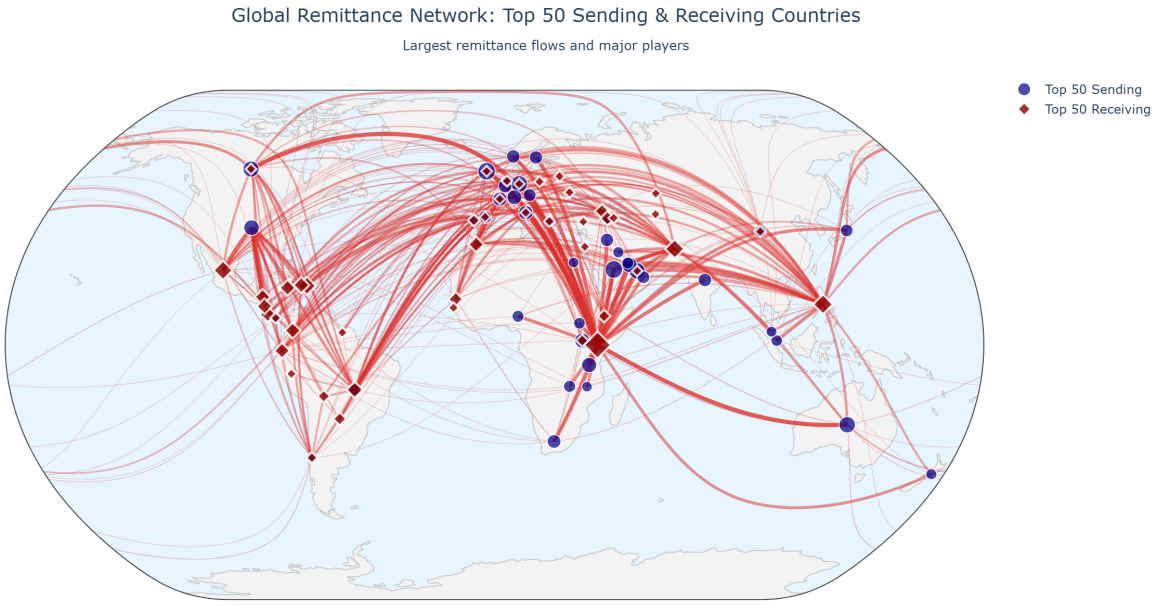
4.3 Main Flows

Only Remitscope Data:

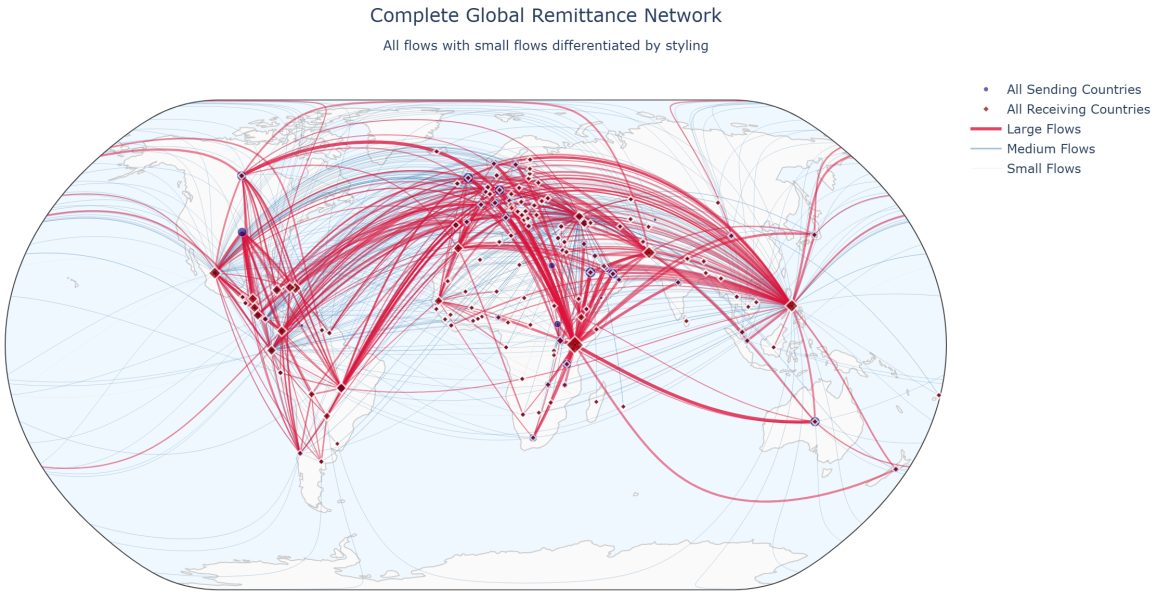


View Interactive Map (HTML)

With All Data Incorporated:



View Interactive Map (HTML)



View Interactive Map (HTML)
