

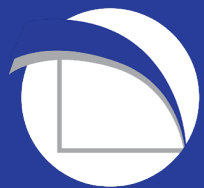


Empowering Investors: Key Strategies for Safe Financial Practices in a Digital World



Navigating Belize's Investment Frontier

A look at how investors and issuers can build confidence in Belize's emerging capital market.



PPF

FINANCIAL
SERVICES LTD

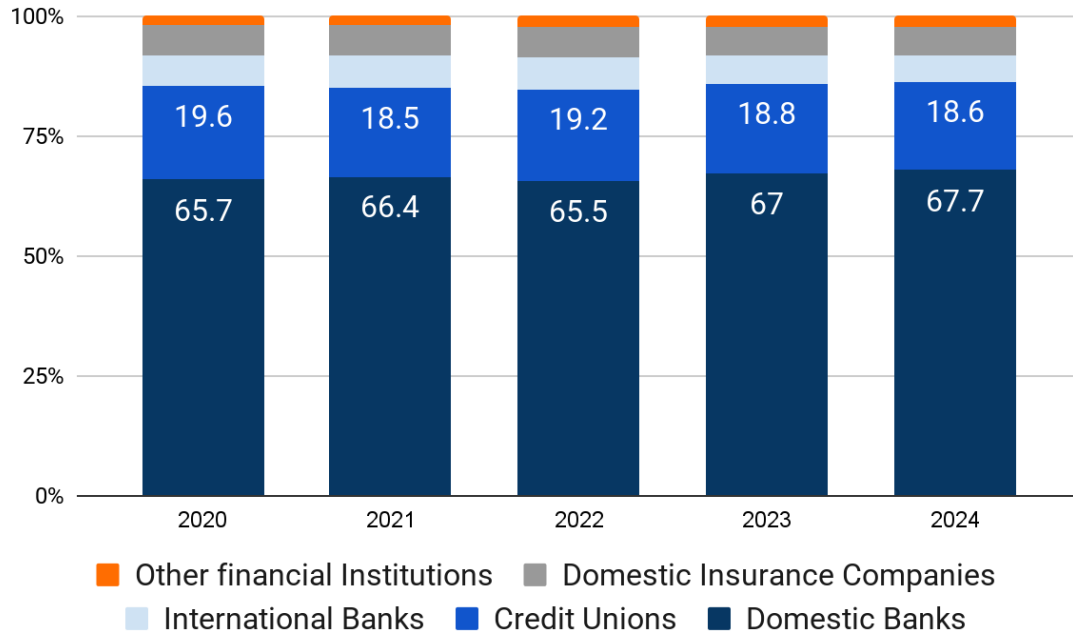
OVERVIEW

A well-functioning market connects investors with issuers through trust – addressing the issues in between

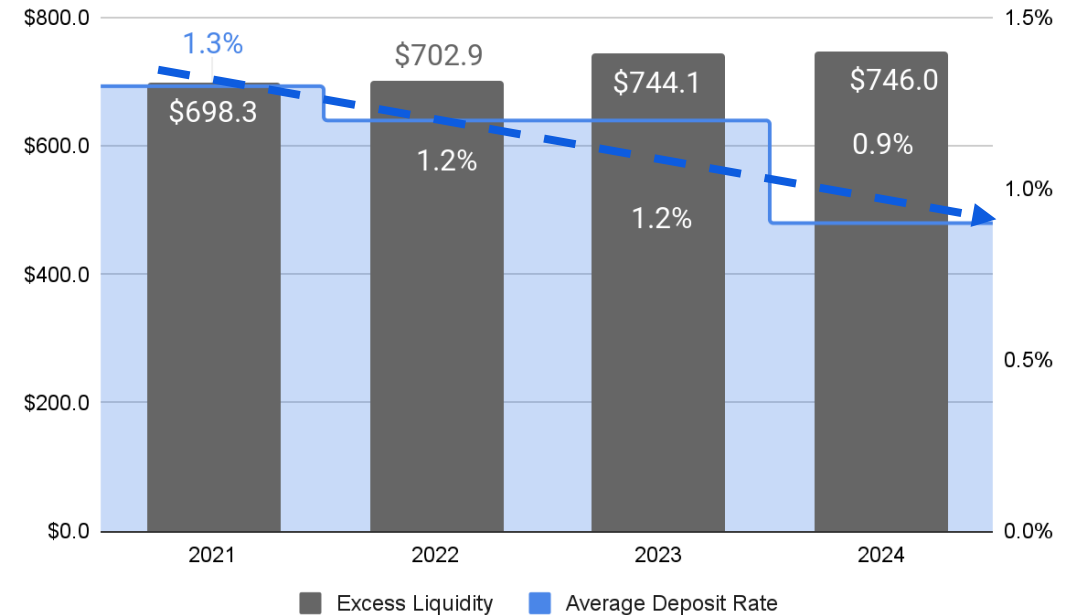


Belize's Financial System

Financial System % Share of Total Assets



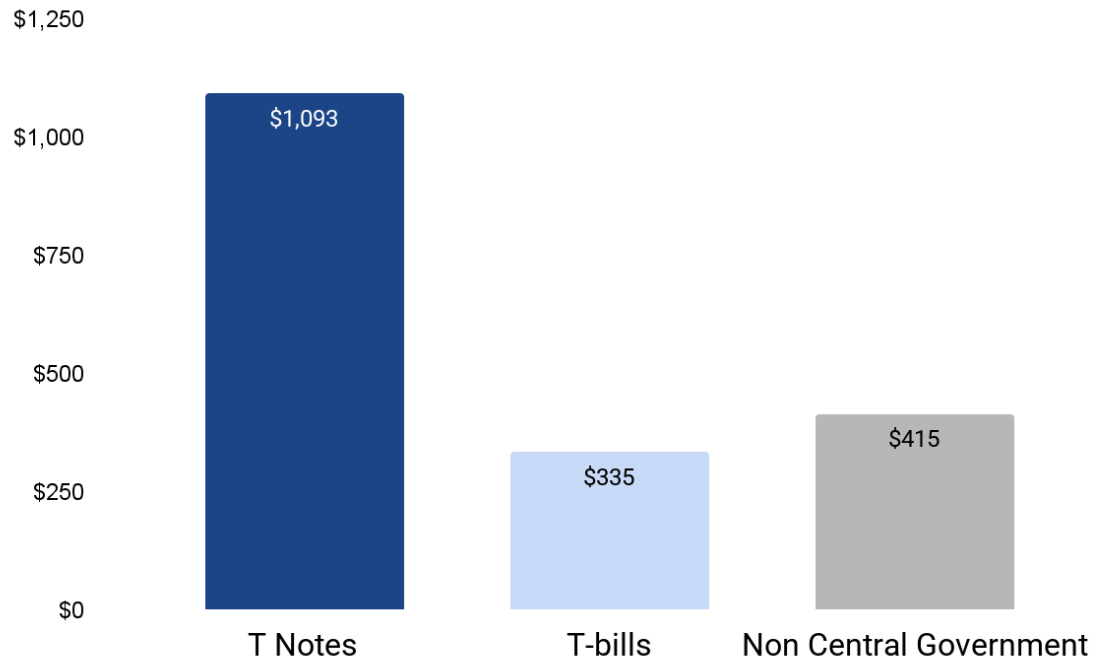
Bank Average Lending Rates & Excess Liquidity \$MN



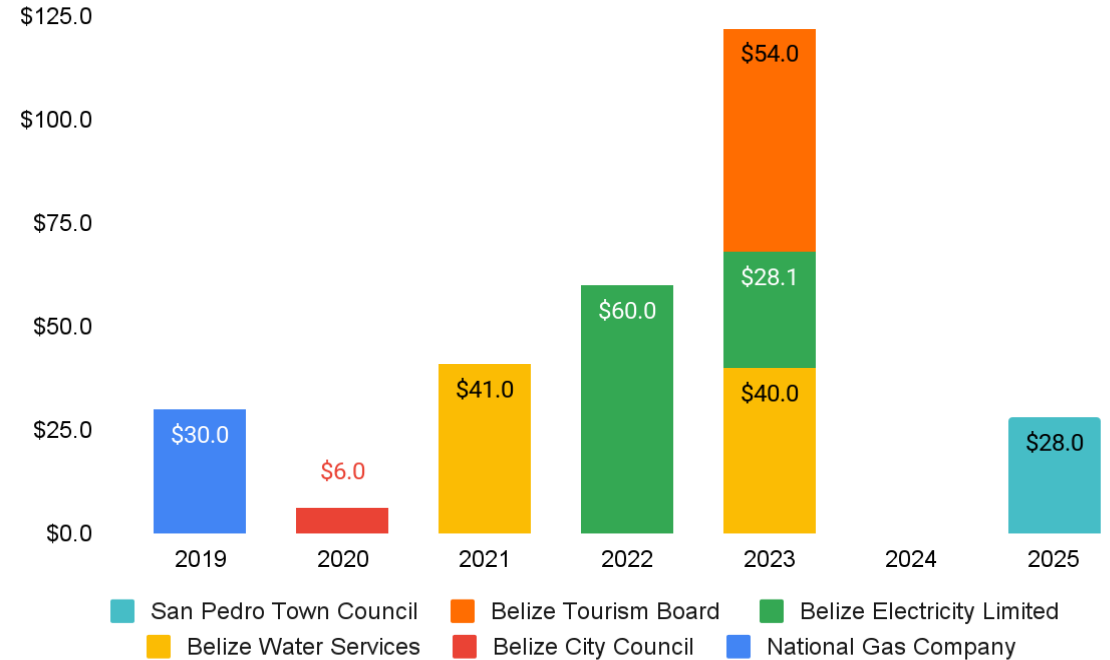
- Total financial assets \$7.6BN of which banks (\$5.2BN)
- Underdeveloped/nascent capital market with no stock exchange
- Persistent excess liquidity and declining deposit rates

Domestic Market

Total Debt Security Issuance BZ\$MN

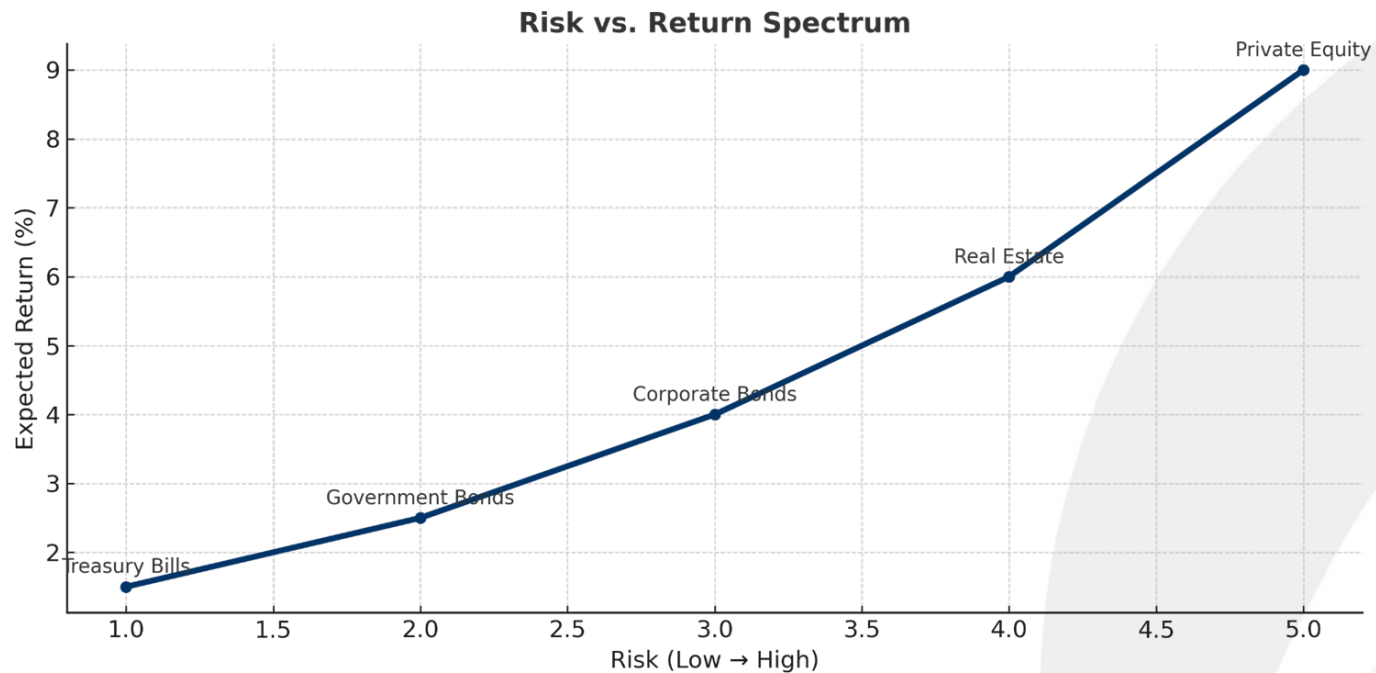


Domestic Debt Security Issues 2019-2025 BZ\$MN

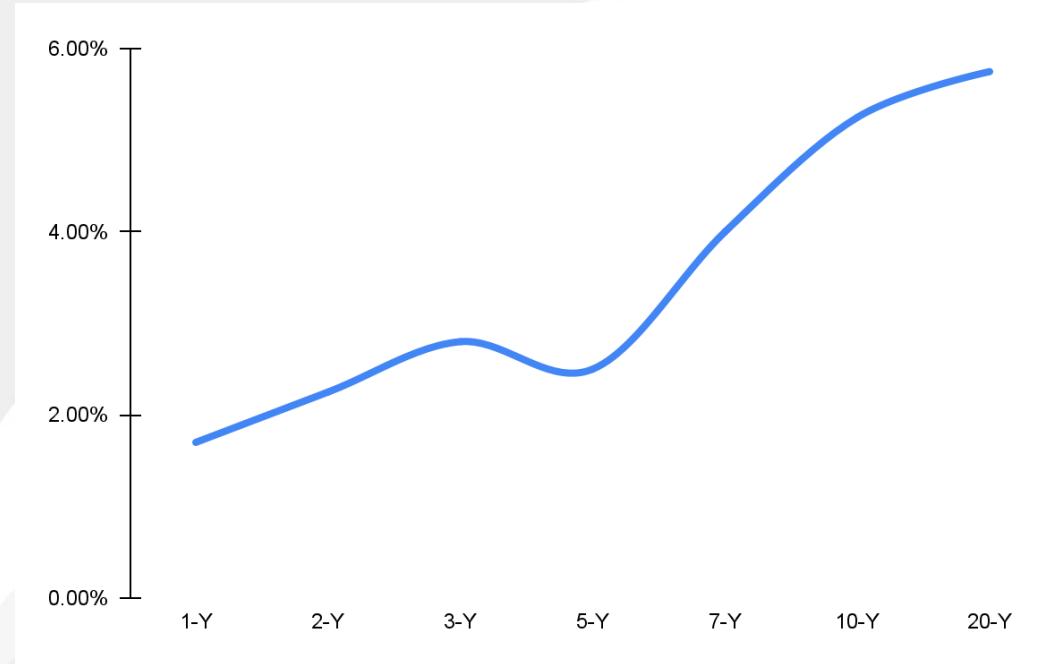


- Total debt securities \$1.84BN
- Government debt \$1.43BN; All other debt securities estimated at \$415MN
- Regulatory Framework SIA 2021 SIR 2023 - a complete legal framework enabling public offerings, disclosure standards, and ongoing supervision

The Frontier



Government of Belize Yield Curve



Risk - possibility of losing money on an investment or business venture (diversifiable vs non diversifiable)

Return - yield (interest income, dividends, capital gains)

Investors



Know Your Instrument (KYI)

T-bills/notes, bonds, equity, private placements



Verify the channel

Licensed/regulator path; prospectus or private placement memorandum and continuing disclosure requirements of issuers

Beware impersonation, phishing, and fake regulatory approvals.



Interrogate the yield “too good to be true”

Cash flows, covenants and collateral



AI as a copilot (not an oracle)

Great for organizing info, risk of hallucination

Issuers

Transparency is not compliance bureaucracy; it's your cheapest marketing.



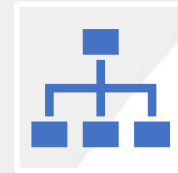
Readiness

Audited financial, realistic projections, defensible story/business model and instrument type match (debt vs equity)



Disclosure Discipline

Prospectus quality (for public offers) or robust information memorandum (for private), and commit to ongoing reporting; this builds secondary-market trust



Governance

Board composition, policies, procedures and compliance



Distribution Plan

Who's the real buyer here (institutional, professional or retail investors), how you'll reach them, and settlement logistics given today's infrastructure

Issues



Technology

Move toward digital assets and CSD adoption



Market Education

Improve financial literacy and product awareness



Opportunity

Private sector firms and MSMEs leverage regulatory framework to raise capital.



Policy

Tax and other incentives to encourage development

THANK YOU

cmcgann@ppf.financial





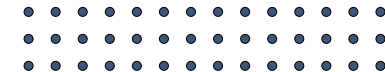
CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE

Shaping the Digital Financial Infrastructure: The Central Bank's Role

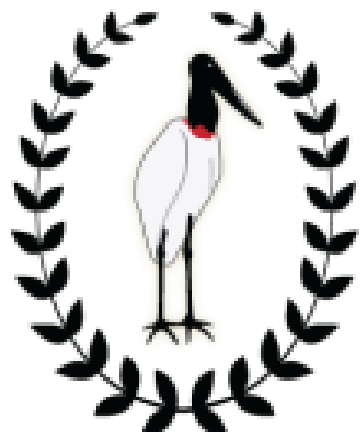
10 October 2025

Carla Vaccaro
Assistant Manager
Supervision Department





OUTLINE

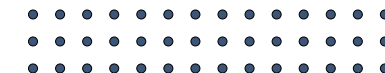


01 Instant Payment System

02 Digital Financial Education

03 Investor Portal

04 Risk-based Supervision





Instant Payment System

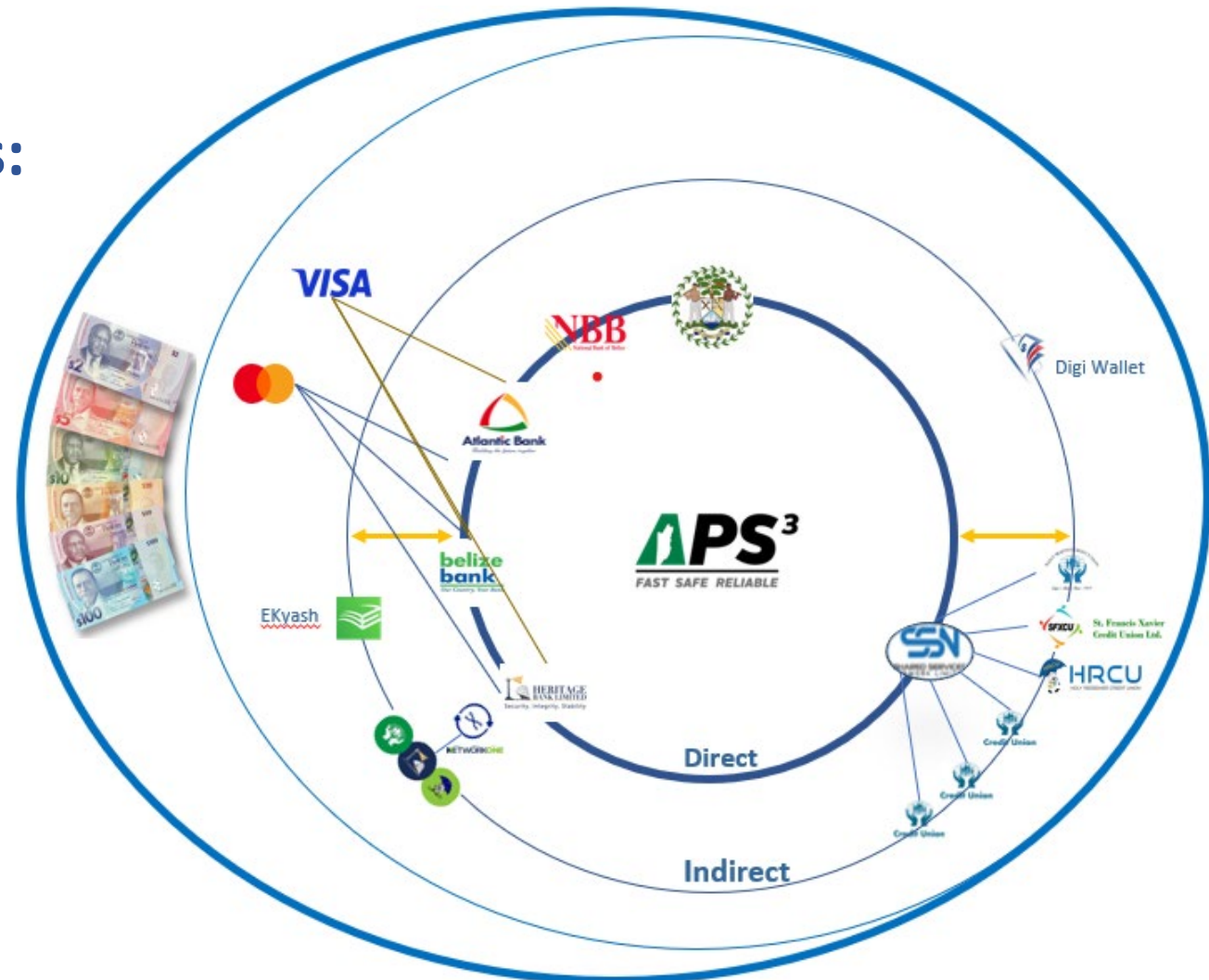
Current Payments Landscape

Dominated by Traditional Methods:

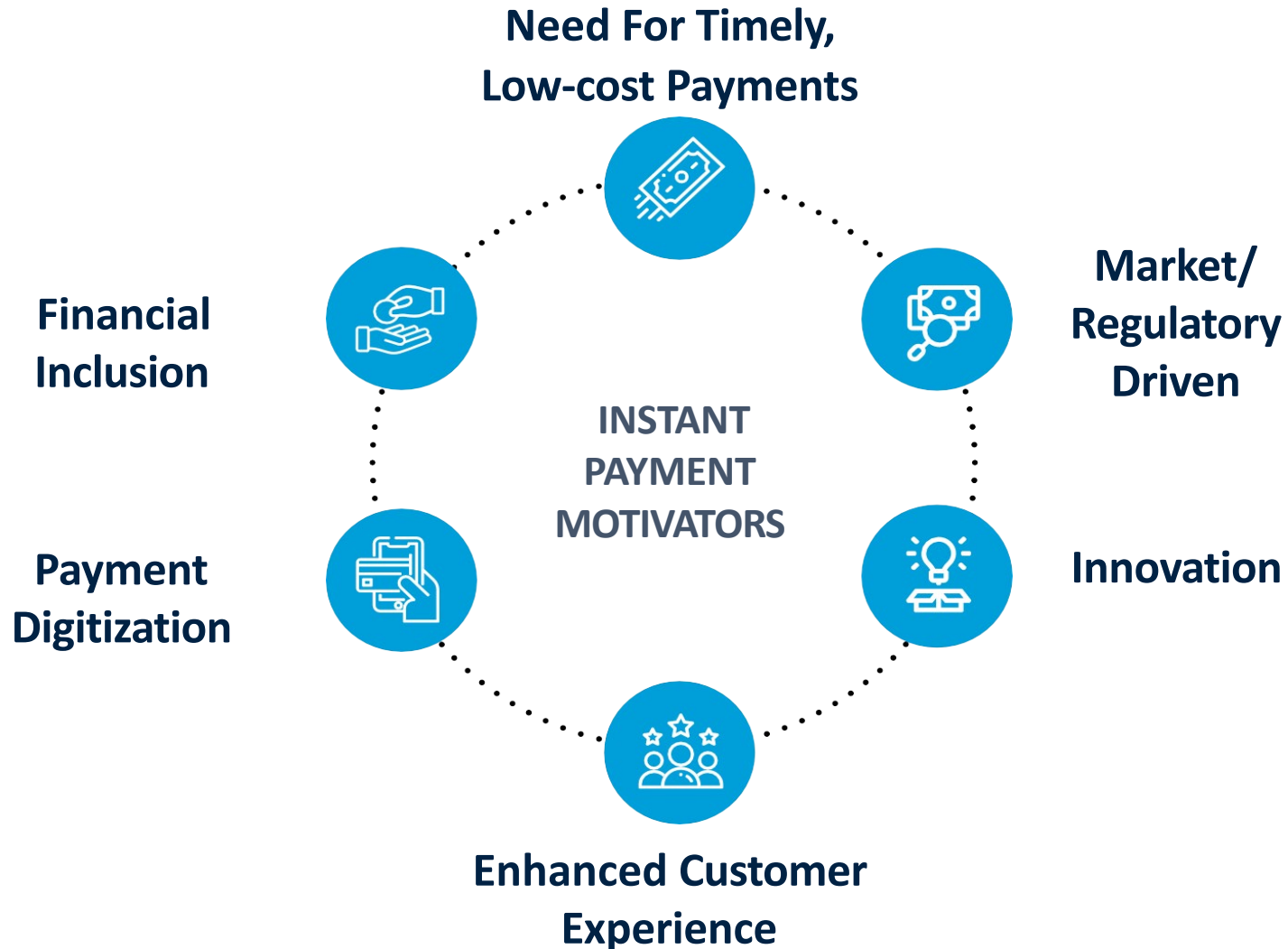
Cash remains widely used.

Digital Adoption Growing:

- Automated Payment and Securities Settlement System (APSSS)
- Card Payment Networks
- Digital Wallets



Key Drivers for Instant Payments



Characteristics of an Instant Payment System



24/7/365 Availability

Payments can be made anytime.



Real-time Settlement

Transactions are processed and settled instantly, reducing delays and improving cash flow.



Interoperable

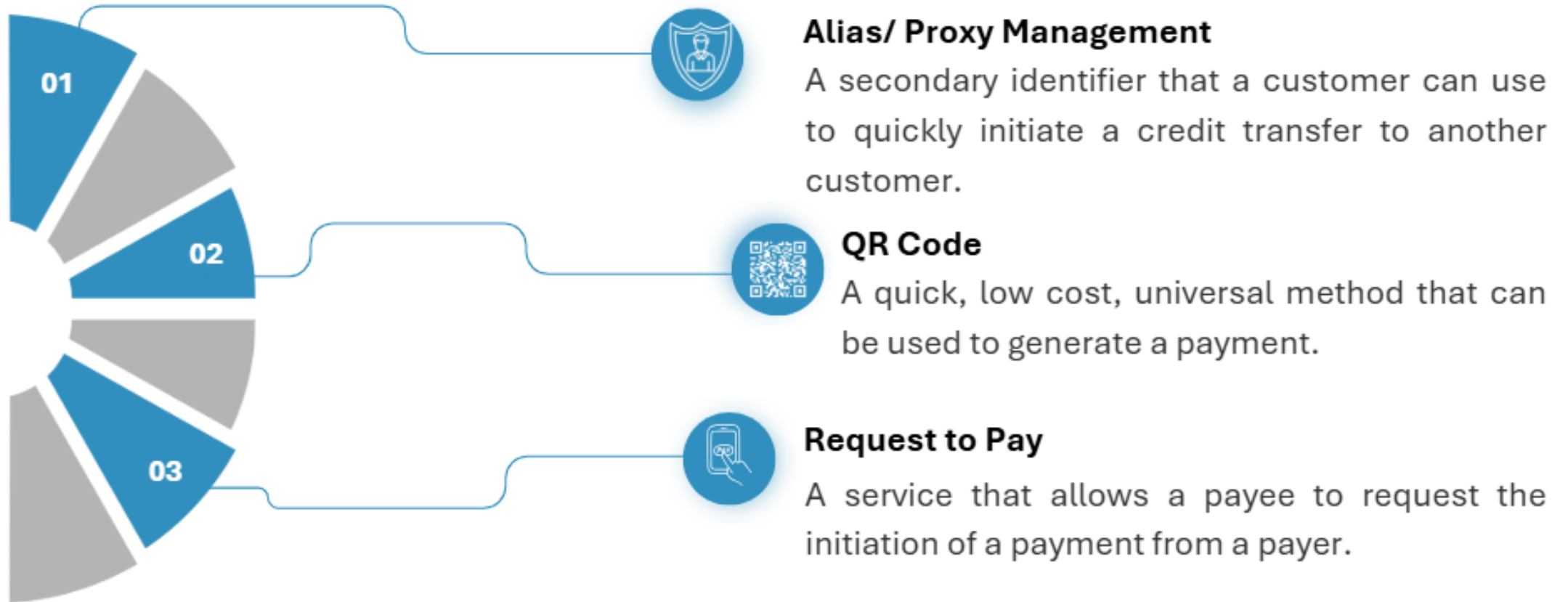
IPS connects different financial institutions and platforms, allowing seamless transactions across the ecosystem.



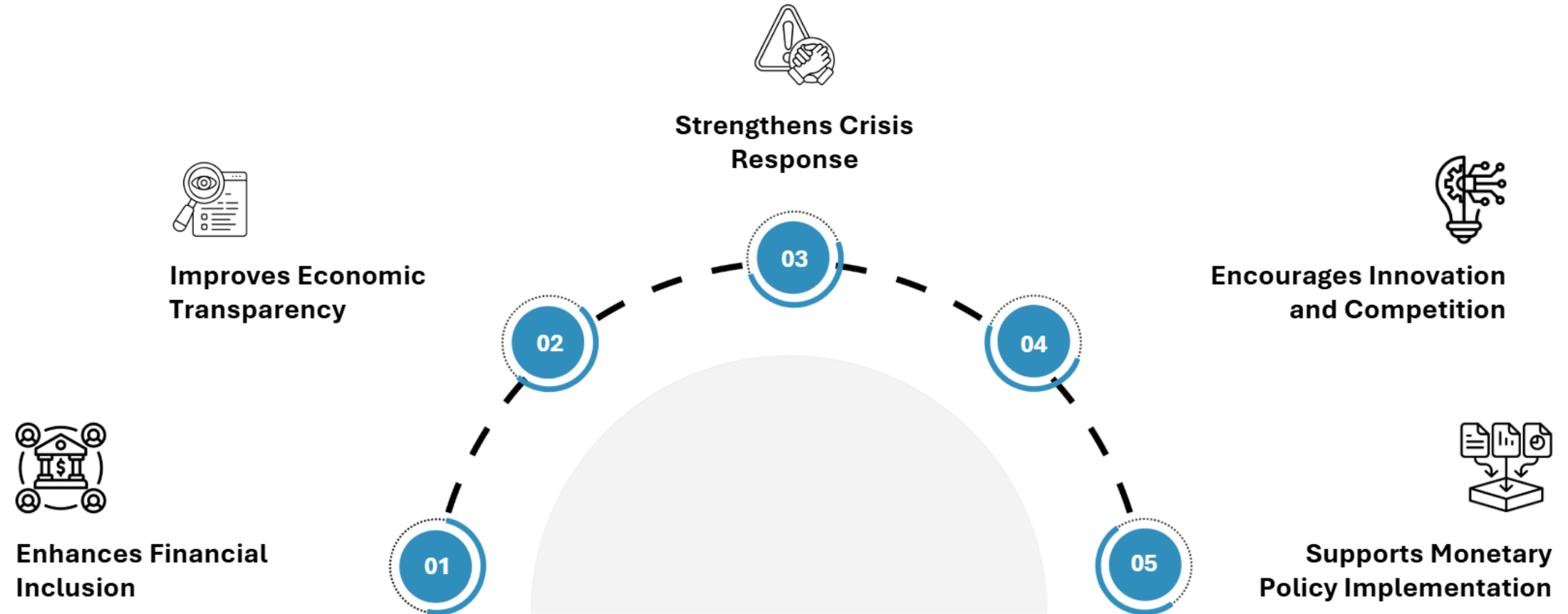
Frictionless

The user experience is smooth and intuitive, minimizing barriers to adoption and use.

Features of the Instant Payment System



Benefits of an Instant Payment System

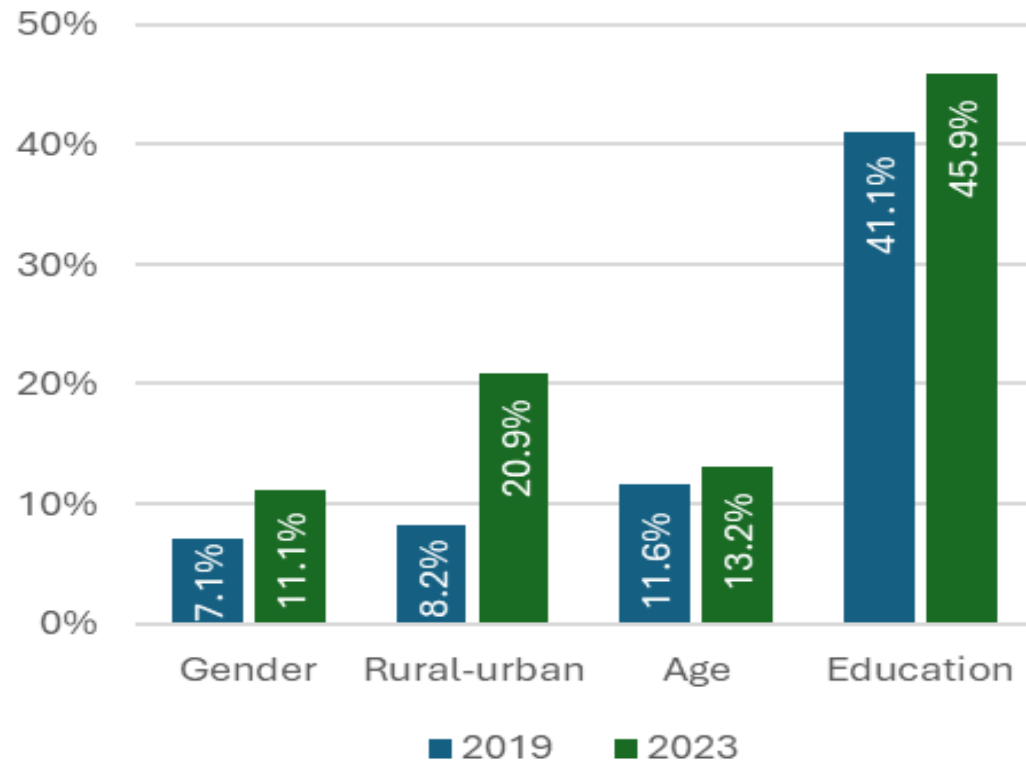




Digital Financial Education

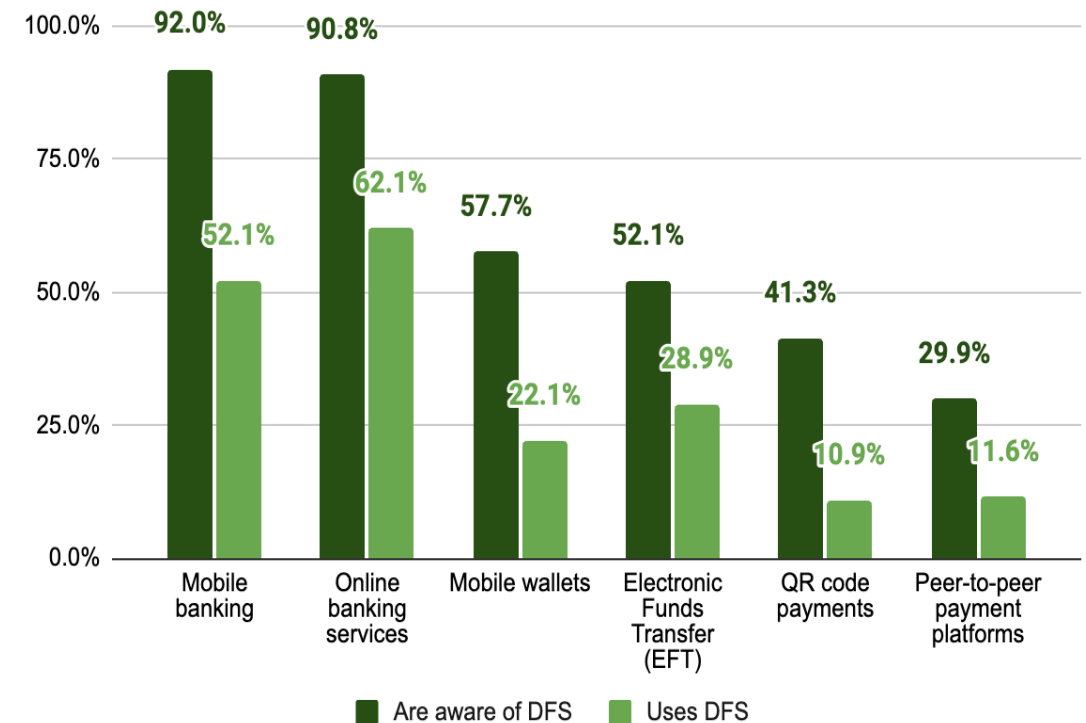
Digital Financial Literacy Statistics

Sociodemographic Gaps



Source: Financial Inclusion Survey, 2019 and 2023

Awareness vs Usage of DFS



Source: DFS Survey, 2024

Digital Financial Education Strategy

Vision

“Enabling people and businesses not just to access financial tools, but to use them effectively and safely, navigating risks, exercising their rights, and integrating financial services into their everyday lives.”

Source: Central Bank, Digital Financial Strategy, 2025



Financial Education Strategy – Core Objectives

Understand Landscape

Assess current financial capability and needs, especially underserved groups.

Design & Scale Interventions

Develop tailored, evidence-based programs to build confidence in digital financial services.

Optimize Delivery & Content

Use effective channels and adapt content to audience context and literacy levels.

Clarify Roles & Coordinate

Define stakeholder responsibilities and establish structured collaboration.

Monitor & Learn

Implement robust tracking, evaluation, and feedback for continuous improvement.





Investor Portal

Overview of the Central Securities Depository

Provides full management of Primary Market Activities for various types of financial instruments.

Calculates and executes automatically interest & coupon payment events and early, partial or total redemption.

Maintains an online centralized electronic registry for dematerialized fixed income securities.



Investor Portal

- The Investor Portal (IP) will provide a **new functionality to investors.**
- The IP will be accessible to investors by **end of 2025.**
- The IP will be a **public web application**, allowing investors to:
 - Create user accounts;
 - Access their CSD portfolios easily and securely;
 - Access to the public list of auctions;
 - Place a bid on their preferred auction through a participant (broker); and
 - Benefit from 24/7 availability, enhancing convenience and transparency.





Risk-Based Supervision

Risk-Based Supervision Framework

Risk-based supervision (RBS) is a forward-looking and structured approach that evaluates risks within the financial system and prioritizes prompt supervisory intervention.



Risk-Based Supervision Framework



Proactive Risk Identification



Identifying and understanding potential risks that could affect the supervised entity.



Continuous Monitoring



Monitoring, assessing, and engaging with supervised entities to evaluate their risk profiles and operational resilience.



Optimized Resource Allocation

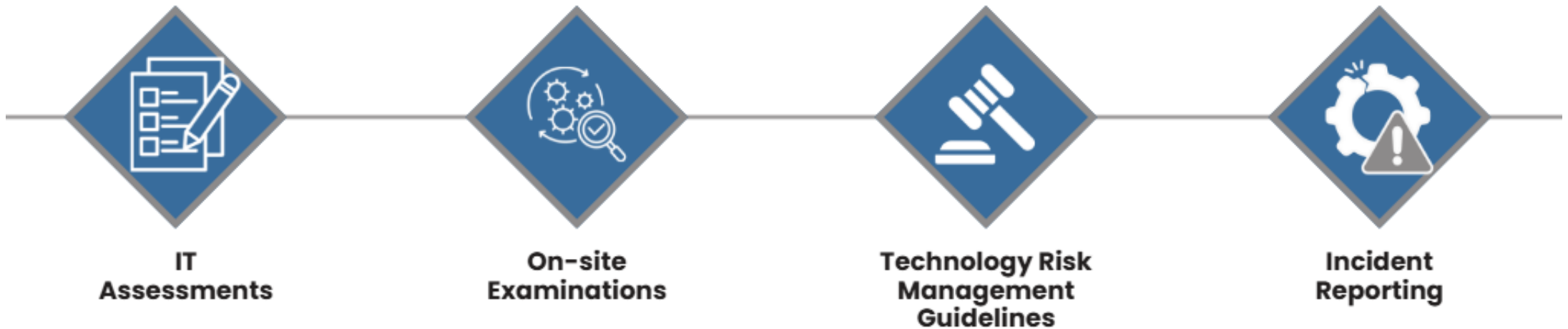


Prioritizing supervisory resources to areas with higher risks for effective financial system safeguarding.



Risk-based Supervision - Cybersecurity Risk

Central Bank's Supervisory Measures



Cyber Security Committee – Financial Sector

Established Collaborative Partnership

The Cyber Security Committee – Financial Sector (CSC-FC) was established in July 2018. The CSC-FC is a Central Bank led partnership aimed to enhance cybersecurity and risk management across the financial sector.

Information Sharing

The Committee hosts **quarterly roundtable discussions** to facilitate:

- Exchange of cyber incident reports
- Identification of emerging threats
- Analysis of sector-wide trends
- Sharing of institution-specific initiatives



The Central Bank's Role in Technology & Digital Finance



KEY TAKEAWAY

The Central Bank as the steward of the financial system, plays a major role: as catalyst, overseer, owner, and operator of the payment infrastructure and/or schemes.

CATALYST



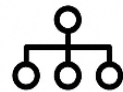
Drives innovation and adoption of digital payment solutions across the financial ecosystem

OVERSEER



Sets policies and standards to ensure security, compliance, and consumer protection

OWNER



Holds and manages critical payment infrastructure like APSS for national transactions

OPERATOR



Runs and maintains systems that enable real-time settlement and interoperability



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE

People Focused. Purpose Driven

Thank You





Building Strong Financial Foundations

OUTLINE

- Technology and Digital Finance
- Virtual Assets
- Artificial Intelligence
- Common Types of Fraud & Scams
- Identifying the Red Flags
- Tips for Smart Investing

TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL FINANCE

Technology and digital tools are transforming the financial industry through the innovation of new products and services, streamlining of business operations and expansion of financial access and inclusion.

Some innovative tools that are redefining the investment space are:



Virtual Assets



Artificial Intelligence



Digital Trading
Platforms



Mobile Wallets

TECNOLOGY & DIGITAL FINANCE CONT'D

Benefits:

- Access to a range of innovative financial services
- Investing becomes convenient and cost efficient
- Helpful in making informed decisions

Risks:

- Exposure to fraud and misconduct
- Privacy and data security issues
- Technical glitches, system failure or outages

VIRTUAL ASSETS

- Any digital representation of value that can be digitally trade, transferred, or used for payment or investment purposes including but not limited to cryptocurrencies, stable-coins, non-fungible tokens, and in-game currencies.
- Currently prohibited by the Financial Services Commission Act, 2023.
 - ❖ Set to expire on December 31, 2025.



Steps Toward Implementation



Disseminated
Questionnaire on
the Future
Regulation of
Virtual Assets.



Instituted the
Digital Assets
Steering Group.



Developing an
effective digital
assets framework
for Belize.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

What is AI?

A special kind of programming that helps machines learn, think and make decisions like most humans do.

Examples:



ChatGPT



How can it be used for investing?

- Data analysis & forecasting
- Robo-advisory
- Algorithmic trading

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Benefits:

- Personalize investment recommendations
- Improve operational efficiency
- Enhance market analysis

Risks:

- “Hallucination” - Misleading outputs
- Data misuse concerns
- Risks of automation overuse



FRAUD & SCAM PREVENTION

What is Investment Fraud?

The intentional deception aimed at financial gain by targeting unsuspecting investors.

- New and inexperienced investors are often targeted by fraudsters.
- Familiarize yourself with the various investment fraud and scams and learn how to identify red flags.



COMMON TYPES OF SCAMS

Ponzi Schemes

Pump and Dump Schemes

Boiler Room Schemes




Impersonation Schemes

Unlicensed Selling of
Investments




Social Media Influence:

Fraudsters use social media platforms to reach new investors with fake endorsements and deceptive investment opportunities.

RECOGNIZING THE **RED FLAGS**

-  **Unregistered Entities or Investment Professionals**
Investment fraud usually involves unregistered entities or products. Scammers may attempt to sell you investments without providing and documentation or claim no registration is required.
-  **Unsolicited Investment Offers**
Investment offers from unknown sources should be approached skepticism.
-  **Pressure to Act Quickly**
Fraudsters often pressure investors to make swift decisions, increasing risk of mistakes.

RECOGNIZING THE **RED FLAGS**

-  **Promises of Guaranteed Returns**
Claims of guaranteed high returns with little or no risk often indicate fraudulent schemes. All investments carry some degree of risk.
-  **Not Allowed to Disclose the Investment**
Fraudsters may try convince you to not disclose details of the investment to anyone.
-  **Immediate Payment of Fees**
Investors should be skeptical if they are requested to pay some type of fee immediately or to wire funds abroad to personal accounts.

FRAUD & SCAM PREVENTION

- Conduct your own due diligence on the investment products/services and the Company.
- Do not share personal or financial information (e.g., *ID, passwords, or bank information*) to unknown/unauthorized individuals.
- Verify on the FSC's website that the Company is registered.

If an investment sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

SMART INVESTING

What is smart investing?

- Careful use of money to build wealth.
- Varies from person to person but should always be centered around your financial goals.
- Making informed decisions instead of guessing.
- Thinking long-term rather than chasing quick wins.
- Minimizing risks and maximizing potential returns.

Benefits:

- Grow your Wealth
- Achieve financial goals
- Develop Financial Discipline



Smart Investor Tips



Start Investing Early

Placing your money in a position for growth can increase your wealth over time.



Determine your goals and risk tolerance

This can help you to decide what investment options are most suitable for you.



Diversify Your Investments

Do not place all your eggs in one basket. Revisit and rebalance your portfolio occasionally to ensure that your investments align with your goals and time horizon.



Use Trusted Resources

Utilize reputable websites and financial education platforms for ongoing learning and updates on regulations.



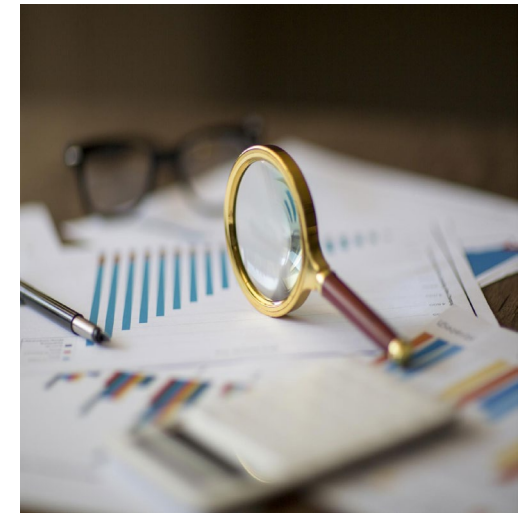
Stay Skeptical of Offers

Remain cautious of unsolicited investment offers to avoid scams and fraudulent schemes.



Seek Professional Advice if Needed

If you are a new investor or just want professional advice, contact a regulated professional.



THANK YOU!

The Gian C. Gandhi Building
6130 Iguana Avenue, Belmopan
(501)822-3800
info@belizefsc.org.bz
www.belizefsc.org.bz





FINANCE BELIZE

Develop . Promote . Exceed



stay informed. stay protected.

Outline

- Finance Belize Overview
- Our Partners
- Current Context and Challenges
- Competing Jurisdictions – IFCs
- Belize’s Value Proposition
- Priority Sectors & Core Services
- Operational and Strategic Plan 2025-2026 Summary
- Recent Events & Marketing Initiatives
- Opportunities for Strategic Partnerships



Finance Belize Overview

- **Mandate:** Finance Belize Limited is the lead marketing and promotional arm for Belize's Financial Services Sector.
- **Structure:** Company was incorporated under the Belize Companies Act on 4 October 2023 as a Not for Profit and Limited by Guarantee.
- **Legislation:** Finance Belize ([Recognition & Exemption](#)) Act No. 24 of 2024 – 24 November 2024 – exemption from taxes, duties & imposts
- **Studies and Strategies:**
 - Economic Impact Analysis (EIA) – November 2019
 - Finance Belize Strategic Plan 2023-2028
 - Finance Belize Marketing Strategy – November 2024



No. 24 of 2024

I assent,

(H.E. DAME FROYLA TZALAM)
Governor-General

29th November, 2024.

AN ACT to recognize and acknowledge the formation and existence of Finance Belize Limited as a private sector entity, not-for-profit, limited by guarantee, without share capital and non-political; to promote Belize as a financial services center; to grant it exemption from all taxes, duties and other imposts; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Gazetted 30th November, 2024).

BE IT ENACTED, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives and Senate of Belize and the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the

Short title.

FINANCE BELIZE (RECOGNITION & EXEMPTION) ACT, 2024.

Finance Belize Overview



Vision: To develop a compliant and respected international financial services sector in Belize that drives growth



Mission: To promote Belize as a cooperative, transparent and business-friendly jurisdiction by strengthening the international financial services sector while creating a common sense of purpose with government, policy makers, regulators, trade associations and firms.



Core Values:
Excellence, Integrity, Partnerships, Governance & Growth

Our Partners



Technical Advisory Committee:

1. BCCAR
2. IMMARBE
3. BELTRAIDE
4. BCCI
5. Belize Tourism Board
6. STEP BZ
7. Bar Association
8. Bankers Association
9. BIFSA
10. ICAB
11. Belize Tax Service
12. BPO Association
13. AREBB
14. International Markets

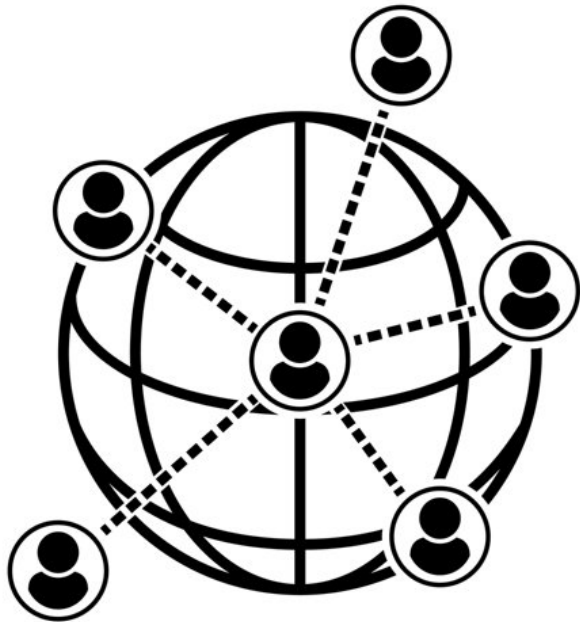
Current Context – FSS Economic Contribution

GDP Breakdown (Statistical Institute of Belize)	2021	2022	2023	2024
Financial and insurance activities	402.5	416.8	470.4	525.6
<i>Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding</i>	359.0	386.4	423.6	475.6
<i>Insurance and pension funding</i>	38.3	25.0	40.7	43.1
<i>Activities auxiliary to financial services</i>	5.2	5.4	6.1	6.9
Gross Domestic Product (current prices BZ \$ million)	4,841.1	5,693.4	6,133.7	6,407.3
Percent of GDP	8.3%	7.3%	7.7%	8.2%

- SIB currently primarily captures data from financial institutions regulated by the Central Bank of Belize
- Non-bank services and economic benefits from international companies need to be included in upcoming assessment period of GDP



Key Challenges in a Changing World



Global De-risking – Pressure from International Standard Setters

Need for Specialized Talent in Financial Services

Digital Transformation and Cybersecurity Threats

Increased Competition from Established IFCs

Competing International Financial Centers (IFCs)



NEVIS FINANCE
Your Wealth. Our Expertise.



Cook Islands
FINANCE

RWANDA
FINANCE
LIMITED



- **Established IFCs:** Singapore, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New Zealand, Ireland, Austria, & U.K.
- **Other IFCs:** Labaun, Anguilla, Samoa, Gibraltar & Marshall Islands

Belize's Value Proposition as an IFC

- **Tax Benefits:** No capital gains tax, estate tax, or inheritance tax on assets held outside Belize.
- **Confidentiality:** Strict confidentiality laws protect client information, with limited public disclosure requirements
- **Legal Protection:** Strong asset protection laws, especially for trusts and corporations, prevent foreign creditors from accessing assets.
- **Ease of Formation:** Companies, trusts, and other entities can be quickly and easily set up with minimal requirements
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Belize is currently a global leader meeting 38 out of 40 Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations.
- **Digital Transformation:** Belize now offers a modernized online business registry system (OBRS) leveraging digitization and emerging technology.
- **Service Diversification:** Belize is currently exploring areas of service diversification including digital assets.

www.financebelize.bz

FINANCE BELIZE : WHY BELIZE?

10 Reasons Why Belize is Your Strategic Financial Hub in Central America and the Caribbean:

- 1 Modernized Financial Infrastructure
- 2 Strategic Location
- 3 Stable Currency
- 4 Investment Incentives & Tax Benefits
- 5 Digitally Transformed Registry
- 6 Diverse Investment Options
- 7 Multi-Lingual Professional Services
- 8 Secure, Transparent & Well-Regulated
- 9 Global Leader in Compliance
- 10 Commitment to Growth & Innovation

Belize: Your International Financial Center
Transformed to Take on the Modern Investor

in f globe envelope

PRIORITY SECTORS

ENDLESS INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES



WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Trusts & Foundations, Asset Protection, Family Offices



MARITIME REGISTRY

Comprehensive Maritime Services: Vessel Registration, Technical Support, Seafarer Services, & High Seas Fisheries Management



SECURITIES & CAPITAL MARKETS

Forex & Securities Trading, Corporate Funding (Mutual Funds, Real Estate Funds, Bonds, & more)



CORPORATE FINANCIAL SERVICES

Professional & Fiduciary Services, Insolvency, Back-office Value-Added Services Outsourcing



COMPANY FORMATION

Special Purpose, Segregated Portfolio, Private Trust, & Foreign Companies, LLCs & Holding Companies



INSURANCE

Regulations currently being modernized



INTERNATIONAL BANKING

Banking Services, Payment Processing Solutions



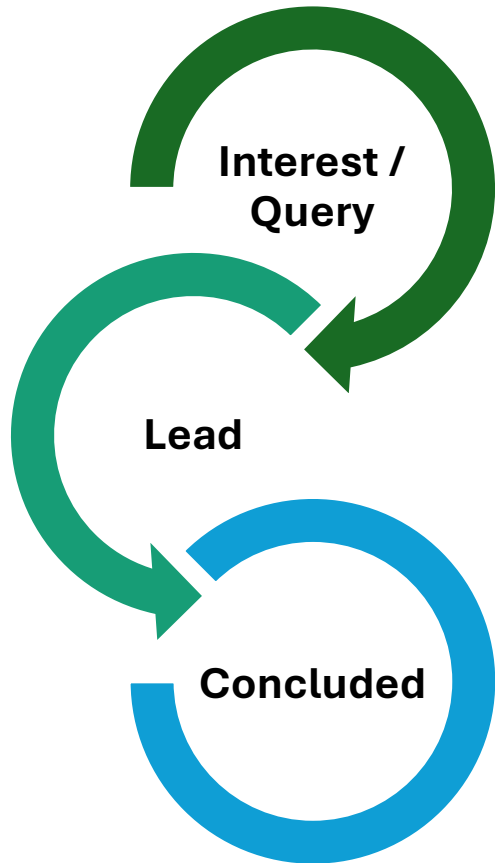
FINTECH & DIGITAL ASSETS

Digital Assets regulations under development

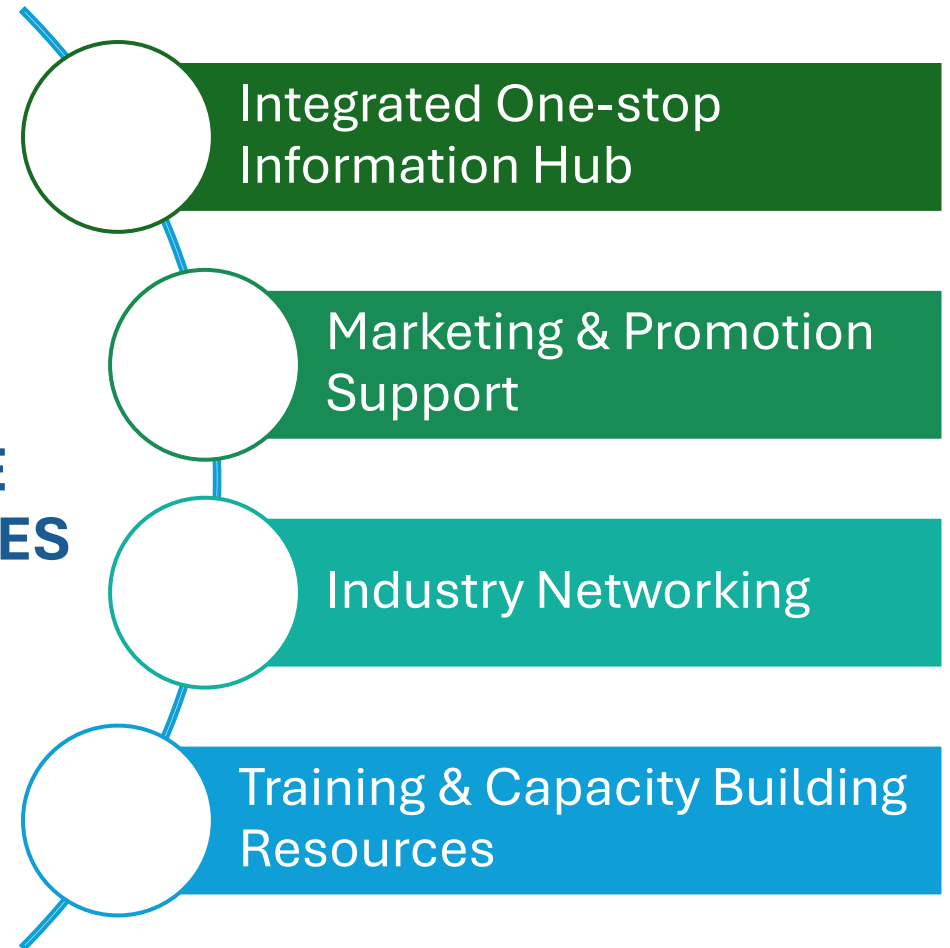
Investment Facilitation and Core Services



INVESTMENT CYCLE



CORE SERVICES



Strategic Plan Summary 2025-2026



Vision: To develop a compliant and respected international financial services sector in Belize that drives growth.

Mission: To promote Belize as a cooperative, transparent, and business-friendly jurisdiction by strengthening the international financial services sector while creating a common sense of purpose with government, regulators, trade associations, and firms.

PILLARS & OUTCOMES



1 – Human Capital Development

Outcome 1 – Enhanced human capital supports Financial Services Sector growth and diversification



2 – Compliance & Policy Advocacy

Outcome 2 – Belize remains a reputable, compliant and competitive jurisdiction for financial services



3 – Marketing, Communications & PR

Outcome 3 – Belize is globally recognized as an attractive international financial center to investors



4 – Stakeholder Engagement & Partnerships

Outcome 4 – Inclusive partnerships enable sustainable growth of financial services in Belize

CORE VALUES

Excellence

Integrity

Partnerships

Governance

Growth

Recent Events and Marketing Initiatives

SAVE THE DATE FRI. JUN. 21 2024

8

BELIZE INVESTMENT & FINANCE FORUM (BIF)
"WHERE BELIZE COMES TO CALIFORNIA"

BACC
Belize American Chamber of Commerce

BELIZE INVESTMENT FORUM (BIF) CALIFORNIA

MARRIOTT LOS ANGELES AIRPORT

5855 WEST CENTURY BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90045, U.S.A.

PRESENTED ALSO IN ASSOCIATION WITH:

FINANCE BELIZE



PANORAMA

BELIZE

A Central American tropical paradise that is the perfect ecological vacation destination and so much more.



- Once reliant on agriculture and tourism, the country has fostered new economic pillars.
- Belize became the world's most technically compliant jurisdiction for financial services in 2023.
- The nation's robust banks and insurance providers are ready to support international investors.
- Named the leading sustainable tourism destination in 2024, Belize's focus is conservation.

FINANCE BELIZE

YOUR GATEWAY TO MODERN FINANCIAL SERVICES

Opportunities for Strategic Partnerships

- **Joint Attendance at National and International Promotional Events, Trade Shows, Conferences**
- **Opportunities to showcase Belize in publications / media via ads or articles**
- **Training and Capacity Development based on industry needs**
- **Networking Mixers and Events**
- **Membership Programme**
- **Investment Interest Referrals**





FINANCE BELIZE

Develop . Promote . Exceed

Connect with Us:

4.5 Miles Philip Goldson Highway 4th Floor Aura Building

Tel: +501-223-2393 / Whatsapp: +501-613-9761

Email: info@financebelize.bz

www.financebelize.bz

