

— JULY MASTERCLASS



# Fintech 101: The Fundamentals of Building Fintech Products in Africa



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Product Manager | United Capital

JULY, 2026



**Saviour Mba**

FINTECH | GROWTH | DATA & AI

## MEET YOUR SPEAKER

"I'm a fintech Product Manager building digital products that make investing, payments and financial services easier to access and use."

## WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW

**\$1.4B**

in fintech funding secured across  
Africa in 2024

**72%**

of Nigeria's total equity funding  
flows through fintech

**#1**

Nigeria holds the highest fintech  
density on the continent

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The opportunity is real. **The question is — are you building for it?**

WHAT YOU'LL WALK AWAY WITH

# Session Objectives

- 01 [Ecosystem & Money Movement] — Understand how the African fintech ecosystem is structured and how money actually moves across rails
- 02 [Infrastructure & Regulation/Risk] — Identify the building blocks powering fintech products and the regulatory frameworks governing them
- 03 [Builder Mindset] — Apply a structured approach to designing, building and operating fintech products in African markets

“This isn’t theory. This is how it gets built.”

FINTECH

# How We Got Here: The Evolution of Fintech in Nigeria

Phase 6 - Consolidation, Regulation, and Maturity  
(2025–2026, today)

Phase 5 - The Funding Winter & Correction  
(2022–2024)

Phase 4 - Scale, Superapps, and the  
Funding Boom (2020–2022)

Phase 3 - The Startup  
Wave (2015–2020)

Phase 2 - The Rails Get Built (2011–2014)

Phase 1 - The Cash & Cheque Era (pre-2010)

FINTECH INFRA / BAAS /  
TECH-FIN



MOBILE MONEY / PSB / AGENCY &  
INFORMAL BANKING

SPEND MGT, MERCHANT  
SOLUTIONS, BNPL & LOYALTY



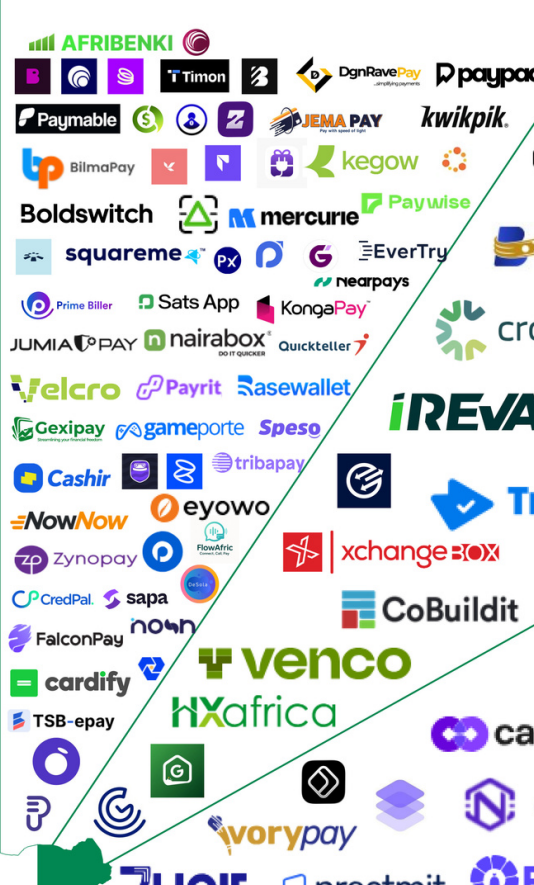
PERSONAL FINANCE,  
WEALTH & ASSET MGT

PAYMENTS PROCESSING,  
SWITCHING & INFRASTRUCTURE



DIGITAL INSURANCE, PENSIONS,  
HEALTH-TECH & HR

CONSUMER PAYMENT / DIGITAL  
WALLET / SUPER APP



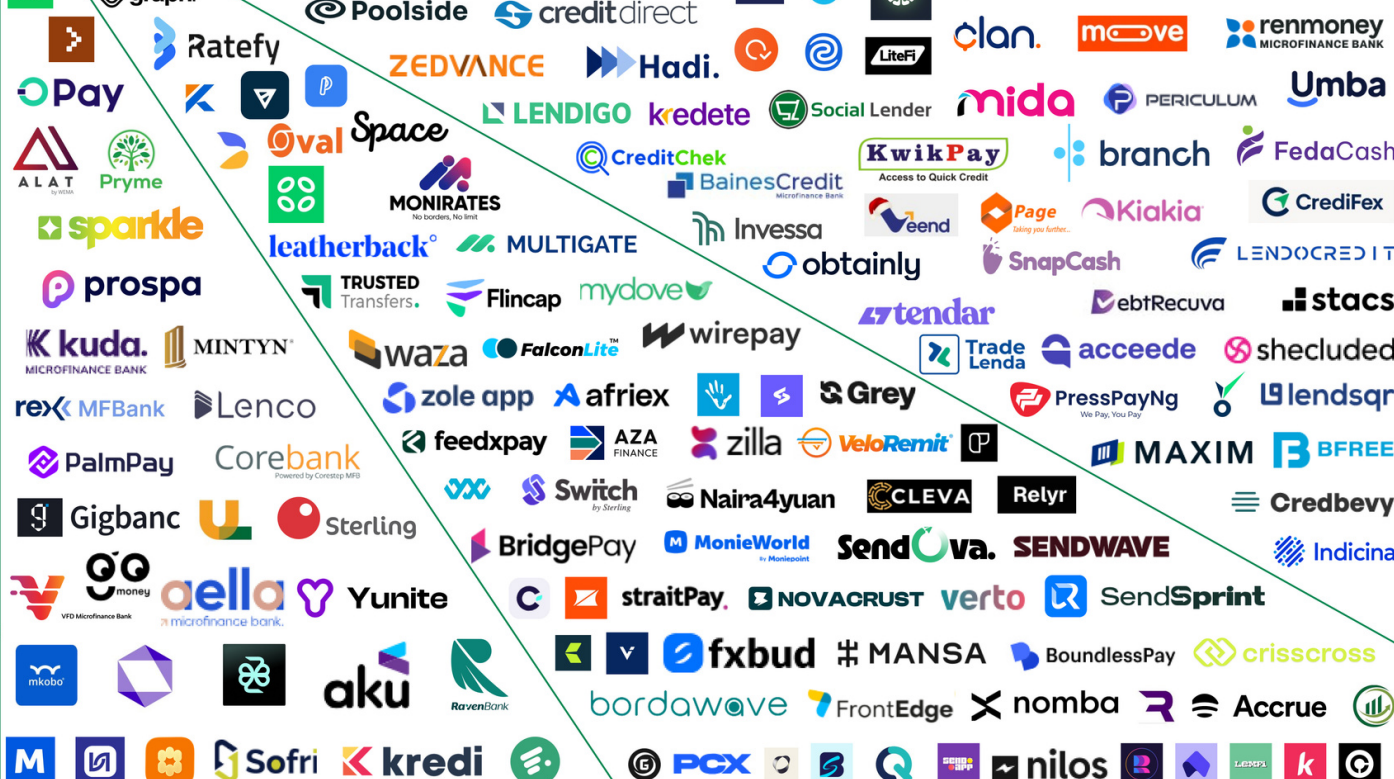
DIGITAL BANKS  
(CONSUMER & BUSINESS)

CROWDFUNDING, AGRITECH  
& PROPTech



CRYPTO & WEB3

DIGITAL LENDERS & CREDIT  
INFRASTRUCTURE



FX / B2B & CROSS BORDER  
PAYMENTS / REMITTANCES

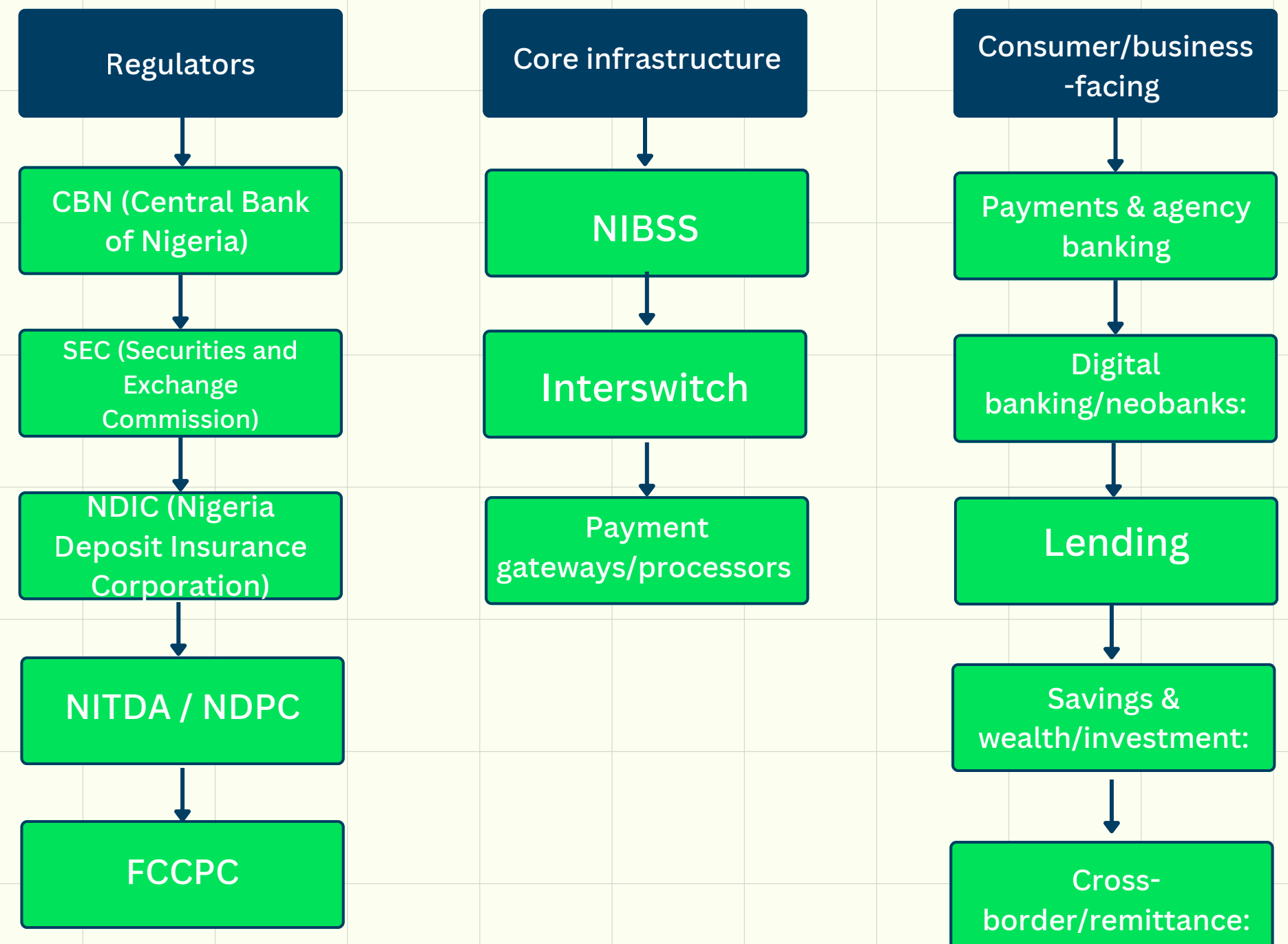
# Licensing and Cost

| License Type           | What it allows you do                            | Who it's for                        | Examples                                                                     | Minimum Capital Required |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Switching & Processing | Switch, Process & Settle Transactions            | Payment Infrastructure Platforms    | Interswitch                                                                  | ₦2 Billion               |
| Mobile Money Operator  | Offer Wallets, P2P Transfers, and Bill Payments  | Wallet apps, Mobile money providers | OPay, PalmPay and Paga                                                       | ₦2 Billion               |
| PSSP                   | Facilitate Backend Payment Processing            | Gateways, Merchant Checkout Tools   | Fincra, Kora and Redtech                                                     | ₦100 Million             |
| PTSP                   | Deploy and maintain POS terminals                | POS solution providers              | Global Accelerex, ITEX and Nomba                                             | ₦100 Million             |
| Payment Service Bank   | Provide banking services to unbanked communities | Rural-focused digital banks         | MoMo PSB, SmartCash PSB and 9PSB                                             | ₦5 Billion               |
| Super-Agent            | Manager a network of financial service agents    | Agent network platforms             | Accelerex Networks, CrowdForce and Interswitch Financial Inclusion Services. | Varies (-₦50M+)          |
| Regulatory Sandbox     | Test new fintech ideas without full licencing    | Early-stage fintech innovators      |                                                                              | None during testing      |

Layer 3 - Distribution requires a license

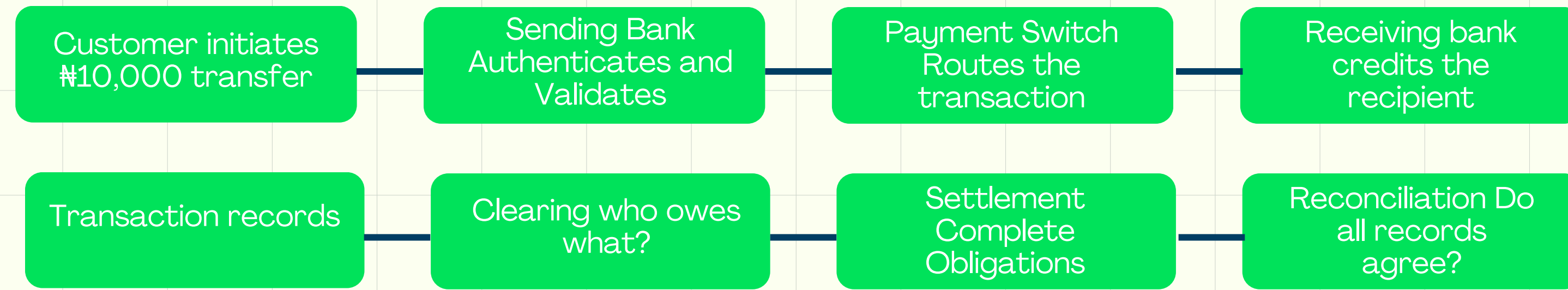
# The African Fintech Ecosystem & Key Players

Every seamless transaction is a coordinated effort between several participants.



The Journey Behind a ₦10,000 Transfer

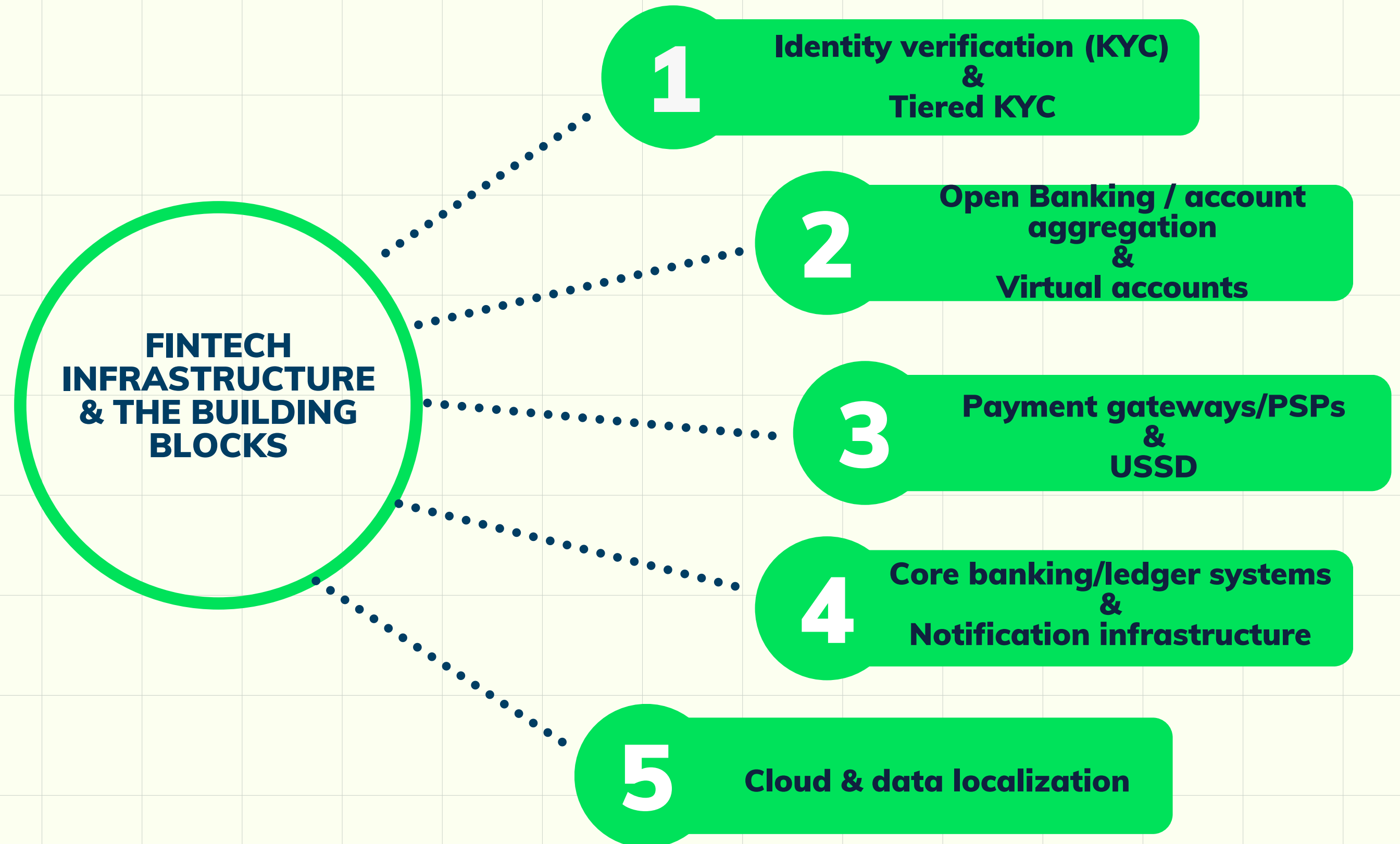
# How Does Money Move?



## Concepts to Remember

- Switching
- Settlement
- Reconciliation
- Push vs Pull Payment
- Float
- Webhooks

## The Infrastructure Behind the Interface



# Regulation, Compliance & Fraud

01

CBN governs banking and payments

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02

SEC governs capital markets

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03

NDIC insures deposits

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04

NDPC enforces data protection under the  
Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023

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Fintech builders must understand how money moves, how it is recorded, what can go wrong and how the business remains sustainable.

# Core Concepts Every Fintech Product Builder Should Understand

- Trust is the product
- Design for the failure case first
- You're building on rails you don't control
- Regulation shapes the roadmap, not just the legal review
- Distribution channel matters as much as the product
- The ecosystem is maturing from growth to governance.

OPEN FLOOR

**Understand the system. Solve real problems.**  
**Build what Africa needs.**

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X @Saviour Mba

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