

The paper voucher becomes a balance.

In Cameroon, when a shopkeeper cannot give change, they write a voucher. Untracked, unfunded, often lost. **Kobri replaces it with a digital balance:** credited in under five seconds, spendable at another shop, withdrawable in cash from an agent.

385

licensed microfinance institutions in
Cameroon (COBAC, 31 Dec 2025)

XAF 659.4bn

in loans carried by the sector

< 5 s

to give change back, end to end

HOW IT WORKS

1

The merchant shows their QR

They enter the amount owed; a six-digit code appears, valid for three minutes. A printed QR is enough.

2

The customer scans and types the code

On their own phone, which never changes hands. The code works once, for that amount.

3

The balance is credited

Both parties are notified. The customer spends it elsewhere or withdraws cash.



A neighbourhood shop in Douala — Kobri's everyday use case.

Kobri does not hold the funds. The service is operated as a distributor, in the name and on behalf of a licensed payment service provider. COBAC Regulation R-2019/01 exempts distributors and sub-distributors operating under the cover of an approved provider from holding their own licence. Partner merchants and agents are sub-distributors.

FOR EACH PARTY

The customer

- Receives their change in under five seconds, free of charge
- The balance does not expire and cannot be lost
- Spends it elsewhere or withdraws it in cash
- Never gives a PIN to **receive** money

The merchant

- Stops buying small change out of their margin
- Stops losing sales for want of coins
- A printed QR is enough — no equipment
- Tracks takings and exports for accounting

The microfinance institution

- Every user becomes **their** customer, KYC on file
- The float stays in their segregated, interest-bearing account
- Every shop is a point of presence with no branch cost
- COBAC notification files assembled automatically

We tried to forge our own audit log

With full database administrator privileges and the protections disabled, we altered a line in the audit log. The fingerprint chain detected and named it. Double-entry ledger, append-only entries, all balances summing to zero: these are database engine constraints, not promises.

```
$ verify audit chain  
x break detected – content altered after write
```

WHERE THE PROJECT STANDS

Done

- Regulatory structure established against CEMAC and COBAC texts
- Financial ledger built and tested (automated integrity checks)
- Back-office: partner onboarding and COBAC notification files

Ahead

- Mobile app: customer, merchant and agent journeys
- Partnership with a licensed institution
- Field pilot: one neighbourhood, a few shops, low ceilings

What we are looking for. A licensed institution to operate under, and a handful of shopkeepers to test the service in the field. A first one-hour conversation is enough to find out whether this can work.