

Africa Board Fellowship

Good governance, better business.



Overview

The Fellowship is dedicated to strengthening governance, improving risk-management practices, and building strategic leadership abilities.

Research has shown that the single biggest success factor in MFIs across the world is good governance. Programme activities, structure, and content have been carefully designed to create an open atmosphere that allows for frank discussion among peers. Fellows identify their objectives for the programme and then work with a programme advisor on achieving those goals. Additionally, Fellows have access throughout the programme to a participant-led virtual collaboration space with tools, resources, content, and access to subject-matter experts. At the conclusion of the programme, Fellows stay connected as alumni, providing a network of leaders confronting similar challenges.

Programme Benefits

- A platform for leaders of sub-Saharan Africa MFIs and financial institutions to discuss, share ideas, and acquire new knowledge.
- A six-month programme, anchored by in-person seminars of 3 days at beginning and end.
- Fellowship participation is generously subsidized by the programme's sponsors.
- Flexible, personalized approach with content, tools, and resources tailored to the needs of individual Fellows and institutions.
- Access to top-notch faculty and subject-matter experts.
- The opportunity to connect with peers facing similar issues and to learn from their experience.
- A rich, practical, hands-on agenda, with clear take-aways.
- Acceptance to the Harvard Business School-Accion Programme on Strategic Leadership in Inclusive Finance.

Programme Components



Peer Learning Seminars:

In-person, active dialogues led by experts and leaders in financial inclusion. Seminars include a combination of cases, panels, and keynote speakers, all designed to facilitate discussion and knowledge sharing among peers.



Virtual Collaboration

Space: A forum for Fellows to interact directly with faculty, classmates and subject matter experts on technical issues and to share personal experiences and lessons learned. This space provides regularly updated content, resources and tools specifically designed to meet the needs of Fellows.



Programme Advising:

Personal advisors to help Fellows define individual and institutional governance goals, and then work with Fellows to develop work plans and achieve specific outcomes.

“In my 11 years in the microfinance world, this is the best seminar I’ve attended.”

*Ben Botha
CEO
Socremo Bank, Mozambique*

“This is a unique and genuine programme that will lead to an improvement in board deliberations. This is undoubtedly one of the best programmes I’ve attended.”

*Rev. Emmanuel Asiedu-Appiah
Board of Directors
First Allied Savings & Loans, Ghana*

“Governance strengthening is the key to growth in Africa, and the timing is right for this type of programme.”

*Chinyere Peace Almona
Programme Manager
IFC Africa Corporate Governance Programme*

“Strong corporate governance can unlock the potential of an institution.”

*Benjamin Nkungi
Chief Executive Officer
Association of Microfinance Institutions of Kenya*



Fellowship Topics

- Managing sustainable growth
- Technology trends and innovations
- Risk management strategies
- Board dynamics
- Strategic planning
- New business models
- Competitive and challenging environments
- Client centricity

To Apply

To be considered as a Fellow, please review the programme requirements on the Frequency Asked Questions (FAQs) page and then complete a brief online application form. Both can be found on the website at: www.centerforfinancialinclusion.org/abf.

About the Center for Financial Inclusion

The Center for Financial Inclusion at Accion (CFI) is an action-oriented think tank working toward full global financial inclusion. Constructing a financial inclusion sector that reaches everyone with quality services will require the combined efforts of many actors. CFI contributes to full inclusion by collaborating with sector participants to tackle challenges beyond the scope of any one actor, using tools that include research, convening, capacity building, and communications.

CFI offers expertise in the areas of governance and risk management through its Governance Guidelines, its ‘Running with Risk’ publication series, and its leadership of the industry-wide Governance Working Group.

For more information about the Fellowship programme, contact John Lwande at jlwande@accion.org

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