

Accion Africa Board Fellowship Program

The Accion Africa Board Fellowship program connects board members and CEOs through peer learning and exchange to strengthen the governance of financial institutions serving low-income clients in sub-Saharan Africa.



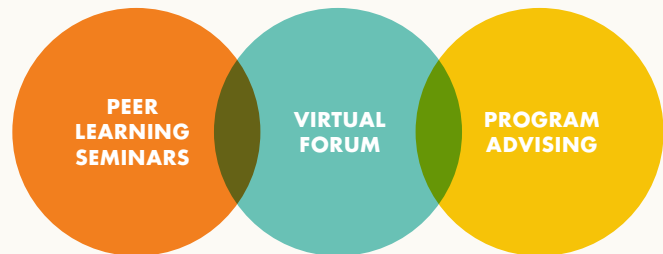
Overview

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

Program 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 program and then work with a program advisor on achieving those goals. Additionally, fellows have access throughout the program to a participant-led virtual community forum with tools, resources, content, and access to subject-matter experts. At the conclusion of the program, fellows stay connected as alumni, providing a network of leaders confronting similar challenges.

Program Highlights

- A platform for leaders of sub-Saharan Africa MFIs and financial institutions to discuss, share ideas, and acquire new knowledge
- A nine-month program, anchored by in-person seminars of 2 ½ days at beginning and end
- 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
- High-caliber fellow participants
- A rich, practical, hands-on agenda, with clear take-aways
- Acceptance to the Harvard Business School-Accion Program on Strategic Leadership in Inclusive Finance



Program Components

Peer Learning Seminars: World-class experts and leaders in microfinance and financial inclusion facilitate and engage participants in an active dialogue on governance and risk. Seminars are an interactive combination of guided case-study discussions and peer-to-peer exchange on governance and risk-management strategies, with an emphasis on fellows sharing knowledge and experience.

Virtual Forum: Fellows engage in regular knowledge-sharing activities, online meetings and discussion forums. This virtual forum provides regularly updated content on governance and risk, and the ability to interact directly with faculty, classmates or subject-matter experts. This content is supplemented by webinars in which participants can connect on specific technical questions and share personal experiences.

Program Advising: Personal advisors help fellows define individual and institutional governance goals, working with fellows to achieve the specific changes they seek to initiate. Advisory sessions provide a targeted approach to improving governance capacity, with fellows working to develop concrete plans and monitor progress against goals.

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

Chinyere Peace Almona
Program Manager
IFC Africa Corporate Governance Program

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

Benjamin Nkungi
CEO
Association of Microfinance Institutions of Kenya



Fellowship Topics

- Managing sustainable growth
- Technology trends and innovations
- Risk management strategies
- Succession planning
- Alignment of interests
- Crisis management
- Conflict resolution
- Navigating competitive environments
- Managing new regulations

To Apply

To be considered as a candidate or to recommend a fellow, please complete the brief online form found at: <http://bit.ly/WKorn2>.

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 program, contact Danielle Piskadlo at dpiskadlo@accion.org

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CENTER for
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INCLUSION

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