

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

The creation of Alliance Finance Impact (AFI) is rooted in a strong conviction: Africa is home to organizations driven by ambition, resilience, and a genuine capacity for social transformation. Yet many of them face governance and management requirements that limit their access to funding and hinder their full impact potential.

AFI responds to this challenge through the **AFI Compliance Score™**. We provide a clear, rigorous framework aligned with international standards, enabling African organizations to use a universal language and a reliable compass to structure themselves, strengthen their systems, and secure the resources needed to amplify their impact.

This methodological guide reflects our commitment to establishing a shared language, an objective framework, and a practical tool to support organizations in their institutional maturity journey.

Our mission is simple: to support the organizations working on the ground by offering concrete tools to improve their governance, transparency, and operational effectiveness. We firmly believe that a well-structured organization is one that is more influential, more sustainable, and more capable of changing lives.

AFI is not just a technical solution, it's a vision: a continent where organizations have the means, the confidence, and the credibility required to fully accomplish their social mission.

AFI's Executive Leadership renews its commitment to accompanying each organization on its path toward greater professionalism, impact, and long-term sustainability.



**Executive Leadership,
Alliance Finance Impact**



ALLIANCE FINANCE IMPACT (AFI)

Concept notes

Consulting and technical support firm specializing in governance, compliance, and institutional maturity.

Our mission

To help African organizations, particularly those in the Francophone region, reach a level of maturity, credibility, and compliance that enables them to collaborate effectively and sustainably with donors, investors, and international partners.

At AFI, we believe that before seeking funding, one must first inspire trust.

Our vision

To build a continental infrastructure of trust for development actors in Africa, where transparency and rigor become key drivers of sustainable growth.

Our business model

Pillar 1: Organizational Diagnostic

A comprehensive diagnostic that assesses an organization's institutional maturity according to the standards of the *AFI Methodological Guide – Version 1.0 (2025)*.

This methodological framework draws inspiration from:

- UNDP Capacity Assessment Framework
- IFC Performance Standards
- OECD Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct
- ISO 37001 Anti-Corruption Standard
- GRI Transparency & Reporting Standards

All of these are adapted to the African organizational context.

The diagnostic covers:

- Governance and leadership
- Financial management and internal controls
- Transparency and communication
- Regulatory and ethical compliance
- Human resources management and social impact

Each diagnostic undergoes a **two-layer review**, ensuring rigor, neutrality, and traceability.

Outputs include:

- AFI Compliance Score™
- Recommendations report
- **AFI Transparency Verified™** label (awarded to organizations scoring $\geq 80/100$, valid for 12 months, renewable upon review)

The goal is to help organizations identify weaknesses, strengthen systems, and become eligible for partnerships and funding.

It is also a decision-making tool for donors, foundations, and funding programs. It allows them to identify the most reliable partners, track the maturity of beneficiaries, and integrate the AFI score as a selection or monitoring criterion in their own calls for proposals.

Pillar 2: Compatibility and Matching

A. Matching platform for Organizations and donors

Organizations with an AFI Compliance Score™ above 59/100 are eligible to join the AFI Members' Area through a monthly or yearly standard or premium subscription.

They receive, throughout the month, calls for proposals, funding opportunities, and technical support tailored to their profile.

AFI acts as a monitoring and intermediation hub between organizations and local, sub-regional, and international donors.

B. Matching pour entreprises et investisseurs

Companies must first complete the AFI Compliance Core™ assessment to evaluate their reliability.

AFI then supports them in preparing investment dossiers and creates a trustworthy marketplace connecting credible companies and responsible investors.

Finally, companies are matched with investors, institutions, and programs based on their profile.

Pillar 3: AFI Training and Capacity Hub – Strengthening and Upgrading

AFI provides a full system of technical support and training to assist organizations at every stage of their maturity journey.

This component has two complementary sections:

A. Institutional Capacity Strengthening

Intended for organizations already structured or those that have successfully completed matching.

Its goal is to consolidate practices and ensure sustainability of performance.

It includes:

- targeted training (governance, reporting, audit, reserves)
- post-matching mentorship
- personalized technical follow-up to maintain AFI compliance

B. Support and Accompaniment for Upgrading

For organizations with insufficient AFI scores or seeking to strengthen their attractiveness.

This section provides tailored field and advisory support, aimed at strengthening institutional foundations and helping them progress toward the *AFI Transparency Verified™* label and access to the Matching Platform.

It includes:

- review of internal policies and procedures
- administrative and financial structuring
- compliance with donor and AFI standards
- follow-up until re-evaluation of the AFI Compliance Core™ score

AFI COMPLIANCE SCORE™

Official Methodological Guide – Version 1.0 (2025)

This methodological guide is the official reference for the AFI Compliance Score™.

It presents a two-level approach:

1. **Self-Assessment (Auto-Check)** – free, simple, produces an indicative score
2. **Certified Diagnostic** – rigorous, evidence-based, leading to:
 - AFI Transparency Verified™ badge
 - inclusion in the AFI public registry

This public version clearly explains the principles, standards, methodology, and evaluation process, **without disclosing AFI's internal scoring matrix.**

PART 1 – AFI AUTO-CHECK (Simplified and indicative)

1. Purpose of the Auto-Check

The Auto-Check is a self-assessment tool that allows any organization—large or small—to obtain a first indication of its institutional maturity.

It aims to:

- create initial organizational awareness
- raise understanding of donor expectations
- encourage continuous improvement
- guide organizations toward certified diagnostic

It is a non-certified assessment based solely on self-declared information.

2. The Five AFI Auto-Check Pillars

Pillar 1. Governance and Leadership

Assesses decision-making structures, governance bodies, clarity of roles, and vision alignment.

Pillar 2. Financial Management and Compliance

Checks existence of financial procedures, internal controls, and minimum compliance mechanisms.

Pillar 3. Programs and Impact

Assesses clarity of program objectives, ability to track activities, and demonstrate impact.

Pillar 4. Public Transparency

Analyzes the organization's ability to publish information and communicate its work.

Pillar 5. Human Resources and Sustainability

Measures clarity of roles, structured HR systems, and organizational stability.

3. Simplified Scoring Method

Each indicator is scored from 0 to 3:

0 = No or Non-existent

1 = Partially in place

2 = Existing but incomplete

3 = Yes or functional and structured

The final score provides a general, non-verified indication.

4. Score Interpretation

Score	Meaning
0–59%	Organization in structuring phase
60–79%	Solid base but still unstable
80–100%	Advanced maturity; natural candidate for certified score

5. Next Step

Each organization may book a free 15-minute session with an AFI analyst to interpret its result, understand improvement areas, and decide whether to pursue the certified diagnostic.

PART 2 – Certified Diagnostic

A rigorous, evidence-based examination conducted according to an independent and professional methodology.

SECTION 1 – International Foundations

The AFI Compliance Score™ is based on five internationally recognized frameworks, adapted to African operational realities:

1. **UNDP Capacity Assessment Framework**
2. **OECD Principles of Good Governance**
3. **ISO 37001 – Anti-Bribery Management Systems**
4. **GRI Standards – Transparency & Reporting**
5. **IFC Performance Standards**

These frameworks provide international foundations, but AFI maintains its internal scoring matrix confidential.

SECTION 2 – The Five AFI Pillars

The pillars reflect international expectations (UNDP, OECD, ISO, GRI, IFC) adapted to Africa.

Each pillar represents an essential area donors assess systematically.

PILLAR 1 — Governance & Leadership (20%)

Governance is the foundation of any credible organization. It reflects leadership quality, decision-making, transparency, and strategic alignment.

PILLAR 2 — Financial Management & Compliance (25%)

Evaluates the organization's ability to manage financial resources with rigor and transparency. Financial management is often the main reason donors suspend or reject funding.

AFI verifies not only the existence of documents but also the reliability of internal controls.

PILLAR 3 — Programs & Impact (20%)

Assesses the organization's ability to plan and execute structured programs, monitor activities, and measure impact.

PILLAR 4 — Public Transparency (15%)

Transparency is central to trust among donors, partners, and communities. It reflects an organization's willingness to disclose its identity, actions, governance, and results.

PILLAR 5 — Human Resources & Sustainability (20%)

Examines team structure, HR management, and institutional durability. AFI analyzes the ability to operate independently of a single individual.

SECTION 3 – Scoring Scale (0–4)

0 = Non-existent

1 = Informal

2 = Formal but partial

3 = Formal and operational

4 = Aligned with international standards

SECTION 4 – Score Calculation

Three principles: **Objectivity, Traceability, Reproducibility**

Includes:

- Indicator scoring (0–4)
- Pillar weighting
- Conversion to percentage

Levels:

- **Foundation: 0–59%**
- **Growth: 60–79%**

- **Leadership: 80–100%**

Confidential internal elements remain undisclosed.

SECTION 5 – AFI Ethics, Independence & Confidentiality

AFI commits to:

- Institutional independence
- Absence of conflicts of interest
- Absolute confidentiality
- Data integrity
- Methodological rigor
- Operational neutrality
- Professional responsibility

SECTION 6 – AFI Public Registry

Publishes only:

- Organization name
- Country
- Final score (%)
- Level
- Status
- Date of issuance
- Certificate link

Nothing confidential is ever published.

Validity: **12 months** (then expires if not renewed)

SECTION 7 – AFI Transparency Verified™ Badge

Awarded to organizations scoring $\geq 80\%$.

Includes:

- Unique ID
- Verification link
- Validity date

Misuse leads to immediate withdrawal and registry update.

SECTION 8 – Public Annexes

Annex 1 – Document Evidence Examples

Statutes, minutes, manuals, financial statements, org charts, job descriptions, annual reports, impact evidence...

Annex 2 – Sample Diagnostic Steps

Auto-check, Document collection, Analysis & interviews, Two-layer review, Score, Certificate, Registry

Annex 3 – AFI Levels

- Foundation
- Growth
- Leadership