



# MOVING DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION FORWARD IN AFRICA

IN FEBRUARY 2013, AFRICAN FINANCIAL POLICYMAKERS AND REGULATORS FROM THE AFI NETWORK MET IN ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA TO LAUNCH THE AFRICAN MOBILE PHONE FINANCIAL SERVICES POLICY INITIATIVE (AMPI).



AMPI IS THE PRIMARY PLATFORM FOR AFI'S AFRICAN MEMBERS TO SUPPORT AND DEVELOP POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS FOR MOBILE FINANCIAL SERVICES (MFS) IN AFRICA, AND TO COORDINATE REGIONAL PEER LEARNING EFFORTS.

AMPI brings together high-level representatives from African financial policymaking and regulatory institutions. Stakeholders from financial institutions, payment services providers, telecommunications entities and their regulatory bodies, as well as international development agencies also participate in the AMPI activities.

By promoting sound and effective financial inclusion policies and establishing a platform for public and private engagement, AMPI aims to catalyze a robust ecosystem around MFS and, more broadly, digital financial services (DFS) in Africa.

AMPI leaders approved in April 2014 a three-year strategic plan, which is revisited annually to ensure its alignment with the interests and needs of AFI African members.

AMPI AIMS TO CATALYZE A ROBUST ECOSYSTEM AROUND MFS AND, MORE BROADLY, DIGITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES (DFS) IN AFRICA.



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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- > Promote innovative policy solutions to expand digital and mobile financial services in Africa.
- > Facilitate policy advisory and capacity building for effective regulation and supervision of DFS activities.
- > Facilitate public-private dialogue and engagement to identify and address barriers to the development of DFS.
- > Promote the development and the implementation of policies to enhance financial inclusion for women
- > Strengthen the operational and organizational capacity of AMPI

## GOVERNANCE

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AMPI is part of the AFI Network and any AFI member institution in Africa can participate in AMPI activities.

AMPI operates under a light governance structure consisting of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Help Desk

The Chair serves for a two-year term and is replaced by the Vice-Chair at the end of the term. A new Vice-Chair is then elected.

## ACTIVITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

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AMPI activities are coordinated through two main mechanisms:

### AMPI LEADERS ROUNDTABLE

AMPI Leaders, high-level policymakers and regulators, meet at annual roundtable to discuss policy issues and provide strategic guidance. They also meet on the sidelines of the AFI Global Policy Forum to discuss other urgent matters.

### AMPI HELP DESK

A virtual secretariat, which undertakes the technical coordination and implementation of the activities. It is comprised of AFI member institutions from six regions of Africa:

#### West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

- > Banque Centrale des Etats de l’Afrique de l’Ouest (BCEAO)

#### West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ)

- > Central Bank of Nigeria

#### Central Africa

- > Banque Centrale du Congo (DRC)

#### Southern Africa

- > Bank of Zambia

#### Eastern Africa

- > Banque de la République du Burundi

#### Northern Africa

- > Central Bank of Egypt

The Help Desk Member Institutions rotate within each sub-region on three years period basis. AFI Management Unit coordinates the activities of the Help Desk.

Help Desk services to members include:

- > Assessing members’ needs and gaps in relation to regulation and supervision of DFS operations and organize tailor-made capacity building programs
- > Providing in-country advisory support on DFS related issues
- > Tracking and disseminating success stories that stimulate DFS scaling-up
- > Sharing information on key DFS issues, policy changes and emerging trends
- > Serving as a regional technical contact point DFS/MFS policy and regulatory issues
- > Facilitating public-private sector dialogue for DFS/MFS issues



1 AMPI leaders roundtable



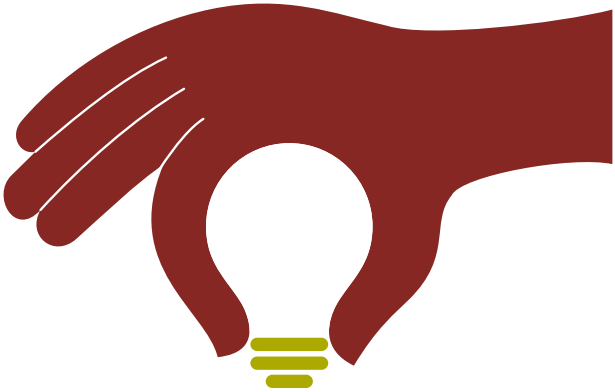
6 AMPI help desk representatives

## MEMBER EMPOWERMENT

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The annual AMPI Leaders Roundtable has become a high-level convening power where high-level officials from AFI member institutions in Africa come together with private sector representatives and other stakeholders to discuss policy issues related to DFS/MFS.

**IN ADDITION TO THIS HIGH LEVEL PEER LEARNING, AMPI'S REGULATORY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS ARE EMPOWERING AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO ADOPT INNOVATIVE POLICY SOLUTIONS TO ADVANCE DFS BASED ON TESTED APPROACHES.**



## MOVING BEYOND MOBILE FINANCIAL SERVICES

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After a year of implementing the strategic plan and taking into account members' needs, AMPI Leaders decided in July 2015 to broaden the scope of AMPI beyond MFS and to include peer learning on:

- > **Inclusive policies for women**, especially leveraging new technologies as well as promoting the adoption of regulations and financial consumer protection frameworks to advance women's economic participation;
- > **Strengthening the synergy between Microfinance institutions (MFIs) and the use of technologies.**
- > **Promoting digital financial services for agricultural micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**

AMPI Leaders are exploring ways to deepen understanding and disseminate knowledge on policy reforms to support agricultural finance.