

# Partnership Policy

Adopted by ADFM's Board of Directors

Last update: December 2023



## INTRODUCTION

The fight against gender-based violence in Mauritania is a crucial mission that requires the commitment and collaboration of various stakeholders. In the implementation of its diverse projects aimed at raising awareness, educating, and providing support to victims, the Alliance for the Rights of Mauritanian Women (ADFM) recognizes the fundamental importance of the judicious selection of implementation partners. These partnerships are the pillars on which the success of the association's initiatives and the effective achievement of its goals and mission rely.

Conducting a prior audit of implementation partners thus holds unquestionable strategic importance. This thorough examination of partner organizations serves as an essential safeguard to ensure the quality, credibility, and relevance of the deployed interventions. It is a proactive approach aimed at optimizing the impact of actions undertaken by ADFM, respecting the socio-cultural specificities of Mauritania.

### Steps in the Implementation Partner Selection Process

#### Initial research:

We conduct preliminary research to identify existing organizations that could potentially become our partners. We consult databases, government reports, civil society organizations, and other relevant sources for this purpose.

#### Engagement with local stakeholders:

We meet with local representatives, NGOs, government authorities, and other stakeholders to gather information about potential organizations. We assess the reputation, acceptance, and credibility of these organizations within the community.

#### Capacity analysis:

We evaluate the technical capabilities of potential partners by examining their skills, experience, and human resources.

#### Past experiences assessment:

We seek references and scrutinize the past experiences of organizations we consider collaborating with, with a particular focus on gender-based violence awareness.

#### Review of policies and values:

We ensure that chosen partners share the project and ADFM values and have inclusive policies respecting human rights, especially regarding gender issues.

#### Evaluation of monitoring capabilities:

We check that partners have robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the project's impact.

#### Community consultation:

We involve the community in the audit process to gather feedback on potential partners.

#### Risk assessment:

We identify risks associated with each partner and develop mitigation plans.

#### Partner selection:

Based on the gathered information, we establish a shortlist of potential partners meeting defined criteria for in-depth interviews to assess their capabilities and commitments.

#### Preparation of partnership agreements:

Once partners are selected, we draft clear and detailed partnership agreements defining roles, responsibilities, objectives, and collaboration terms.

#### Establishment of continuous monitoring plan:

We establish a continuous monitoring mechanism to assess partners' performance throughout the project.

### **Partner Selection Criteria**

1. Experience: evaluation of potential partners' experience in implementing similar projects, especially those related to combating gender-based violence.
2. Technical expertise: analysis of partners' technical skills in the specific intervention area, such as awareness, training, rights protection, etc.
3. Knowledge of the local context: verification of potential partners' in-depth understanding of Mauritania's cultural, social, and economic dynamics.
4. Reputation and credibility: consideration of the organizations' reputation and credibility within the community, especially concerning their commitment to combating gender-based violence.

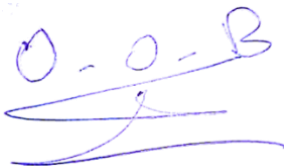
5. Gender equality policies: analysis of partners' internal policies on gender equality and inclusion to ensure harmony with ADFM's values.
6. Monitoring and evaluation capabilities: analysis of partners' capacities for monitoring and evaluation, including data collection, impact analysis, and accountability.
7. Community engagement: evaluation of potential partners' commitment to community participation, listening to local needs, and adapting interventions accordingly.
8. Adherence to human rights: confirmation that partners share fundamental human rights values and adhere to non-discrimination principles and respect for individual freedoms.
9. Ethics: analysis of potential partners' ethical policies to ensure practices align with the highest ethical standards.
10. Referral: obtaining at least one recommendation from another civil society organization certifying the integrity and values of the concerned partner.

## Review of the Policy

This **Partner Audit Policy** will be reviewed annually to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. Any changes will be approved by the Board of Directors.

## Adherence and signatures

By signing this policy, we reaffirm our commitment to conducting a systematic and rigorous evaluation of organizations with whom we collaborate. This commitment demonstrates our willingness to ensure the quality, transparency, and efficiency of our partnerships.



**Oumou Oumar Bâ**  
General Director



**Haby Mamadou Dia**  
President of the Board of Directors