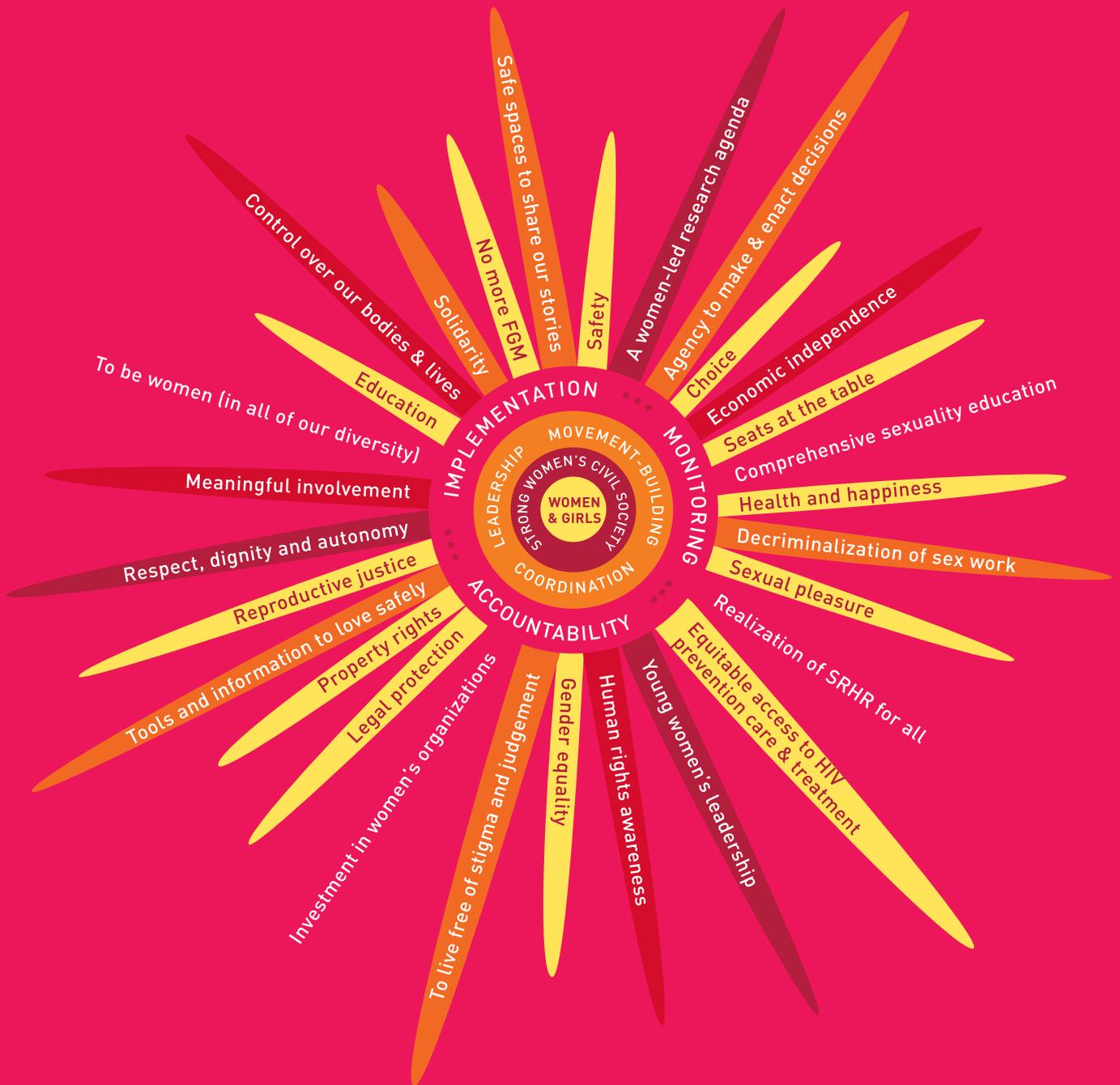




# ATHENA

ADVANCING GENDER EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE GLOBAL RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS



# MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY 2022

# ATHENA NETWORK

## MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY 2022



# INTRODUCTION

ATHENA is a global network of individuals and organizations that come together with a principled commitment to gender equality and gender equity, human rights, sexual and reproductive health, and to an HIV response accountable to women and girls in our diversity. We believe in the principle that ‘small is beautiful’ and that it takes only a few committed individuals to bring big change. Our membership is open to all who commit to our founding document – the 2002 Barcelona Bill of Rights – as well as feminist values and principles.

ATHENA recognizes that only when women and girls in all their diversity can know, claim, and action their rights, shall we enjoy gender equality, achieve sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), stem the tide of HIV infection, end gender-based violence (GBV), and realize global health. We promote and facilitate the inclusive leadership of women and girls (including gender diverse persons) and we put the most affected at the center of our work. We create opportunities for women and especially girls in their diversity to develop, engage, influence, and implement the programmes, policies, advocacy, and research that affect them. We bridge the local and the global in meaningful ways, and work across gender, human rights, SRHR, GBV, and HIV. We contribute to the next generation of feminist leadership and movement building. More, with the renewed attention to and urgency of pandemic preparedness, response, and recovery, we have worked to ensure that we are informing and driving a gendered COVID-19 response that works for adolescent girls and young women in their diversity.

ATHENA anchors our programming, advocacy, daily operations, and organizational growth approaches on a foundation of:

- ★ Creating opportunities for women and especially girls to develop, engage, influence, and implement the programs, policies, advocacy, and research that affect them.
- ★ Bridging the local and the global in meaningful ways, and working across gender, human rights, SRHR, GBV, and HIV issues.
- ★ Contributing to and shaping the next generation of feminist leadership as well as movement building.
- ★ Ensuring that the needs, ideas, and solutions of adolescent girls and young women – cis, transgender and gender non-conforming – are at the center of our work and governance.
- ★ Informing and driving a gendered COVID-19 response that works for adolescent girls and young women.

At ATHENA, we firmly believe that adolescent girls and young women are the experts in their own lives and should not be left behind: nothing for them without them. Our current team is based mainly across Eastern and Southern Africa. The core team members are based in Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, the United States, and Zimbabwe. Nearly all our team members are African feminists, under the age of 35, who have lived with the impacts of HIV in their communities and their families.



# IN ALL OUR DIVERSITY

We respect, celebrate, and affirm diversity. We work to consciously address the needs and experiences of all adolescent girls and young women (including gender diverse persons) whatever their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, disability or class; including those who engage in sex work or drug use, persons living with HIV, those who are migrants and those from both urban and rural areas.

## WHY A MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY?

ATHENA seeks to define and develop categories of relationships necessary to achieve our mission; to advance gender equity and human rights across global health and to bring forward feminist leadership. In so doing, we will promote and facilitate the inclusive leadership of adolescent girls, young women and gender diverse people.

## TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

ATHENA members inform the strategic priorities, programs and agenda of the network. They serve as advisors and collaborators who help to communicate ATHENA's vision to the broader

community of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and the general public.

**Members:** Belong to the network (ownership), and make some kind of contribution (financial, their time, their reputation, etc). The contribution can be minimal to overwhelming! The amount of input may vary.

**Supporters:** Support ATHENA in some way but are not necessarily involved in day-to-day activities/ programmes or decision making.

**Constituents / target population:** Affected by ATHENA's work, whether they are directly involved or not. Some may not even know that ATHENA exists. Defined in the Strategic Plan – AGYW (15 -35 years).



## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

ATHENA is a global network and membership is open to AGYW in all their diversity, young women leaders and advocates who demonstrate an ability to collaborate with other AGYW. Individual members contribute to ATHENA's priority setting and get the opportunity to join ATHENA's Governance Board through set processes. ATHENA's individual members should meet the following criteria: -

- ★ Availability to support ATHENA's work at local or national level.
- ★ Fill out the application form, with contact details and current engagement indicated.
- ★ Be willing to represent ATHENA in local and national issues of interest or population based initiatives.
- ★ Complete an orientation session.

## BENEFITS OF THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- ★ Contribute to ATHENA's priority-setting through surveys, consultations etc.
- ★ Eligibility to apply for ATHENA-sponsored meetings, training and eligibility for scholarships to participate in national, regional and global conferences.
- ★ Eligibility to apply for mini-grants when such opportunities are available.
- ★ Invitation to participate in skills-building seminars and events.
- ★ Opportunities for peer support and networking.
- ★ Opportunities to disseminate reports, your work through ATHENA's social media and online platforms.



## ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

This is open to organizations, networks and groups by and for individuals who identify as AGYW (15 – 35 years) and meet the following criteria: -

- ★ Have established by-laws, mission statements, and formal registration or fiscal host.
- ★ Have a majority of leaders (at least 50%) who are AGYW.
- ★ Demonstrated track record in the previous year.
- ★ Sign an MOU with ATHENA.
- ★ Propose two members of their organization to participate in ATHENA's orientation session.

## BENEFITS

- ★ Eligibility to apply for mini-grants when available.
- ★ Partner with ATHENA in resource mobilization.
- ★ Invitations to participate in ATHENA sponsored seminars/ events.
- ★ Opportunities for networking.
- ★ Opportunities to disseminate work, reports, announcements through ATHENA's online platforms.
- ★ Inclusion in ATHENA's resource list (logo and website link).



## SUPPORTER TYPES

Individuals and organizations that do not fit the definition of ATHENA members for any reason can be registered as Supporters. These include other regional or global organizations and networks, donors, and allies.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

### Visit our Website:

<https://networkathena.org>

### Follow us on:

 @NetworkAthena

 @networkathena

 @athena.initiative



## ATHENA NETWORK MEMBERSHIP FORM

ATHENA is a global network of individuals and organisations who come together with a principled commitment to gender equality and gender equity, human rights, sexual and reproductive health, and to an HIV response accountable to women and girls in our diversity. In this time of a global pandemic, we seek to bring our expertise and our Network to rise to the challenges of COVID-19. We believe in the principle that ‘small is beautiful’ and that it takes only a few committed individuals to bring out big change.

In 2021, ATHENA transitioned into an all-African-led and African-based global network. Our administrative home is in Windhoek, Namibia; physically hosted by AIDS Alliance of Southern Africa (ARASA).

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Email Address\*

Name\*

Preferred Name

Pronouns

Sexual Orientation\*

Country of Residence\*

City/ District\*

WhatsApp #

Race\*

Age\*

- |                                  |                                  |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 – 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 – 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 – 30 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 – 35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 36 – 40 | <input type="checkbox"/> 40 – 50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50+     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |

Do you consider yourself as:- (Mark all that apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A person living with a Disability: | <input type="checkbox"/> An Immigrant:            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person Living with HIV:            | <input type="checkbox"/> A Person Doing Sex Work: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person of Trans Experience:        | <input type="checkbox"/> A person Using Drugs:    |

Affiliation (Organization, network or group)

\*Required

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

Name of Organization\*

Country of Operation\*

Area of Focus:

Target Population and Age\*

Contact Person Name\*

Email\*

Website if any:

Social Media Handles:

\*Required

Fill and submit the form online at <https://www.networkathena.org>  
Print and send to [comms@networkathena.org](mailto:comms@networkathena.org)





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