



ATHENA

Annual report

2013



## About ATHENA

**ATHENA was created to advance gender equity and human rights in the global response to HIV and AIDS.**

ATHENA's mission is to:

- advance the recognition, protection, and fulfillment of women's and girls' human rights, comprehensively and inclusively, as a fundamental component of policies and programs to address HIV and AIDS;
- improve the life quality and longevity of women and girls living with HIV;
- ensure gender equity in HIV-related research, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, and support;
- promote and facilitate the leadership of women and girls, especially those living with HIV, in all aspects of HIV-related policies, programs, and research; and
- bridge the communities around the world that are addressing gender, human rights, sexual and reproductive health, and HIV.

ATHENA operates under the umbrella of a registered 501 (c) 3 entity, The Mirembe Project. The Mirembe Project was registered in 2000. ATHENA had its founding retreat in 2005 and was launched in 2006.

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Checking in: Goals and objectives 2013–15</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>What we do</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Agenda-setting, policy formulation, and advocating for appropriate global resource flows</b>	<b>4</b>
Driving change on gender-based violence and HIV in West and Central Africa	4
Advancing a feminist focus for the post-2015 agenda	6
Championing gender equality through the Global Fund	7
<b>2. Leadership and capacity-building of women in all our diversity</b>	<b>9</b>
Voices, visions and priorities: Link Up dialogues with young people	9
Young Women's Leadership Initiative	11
<b>3. Movement-building and knowledge-sharing</b>	<b>12</b>
Diversifying the Women's Networking Zone to regional platforms	12
<b>ATHENA governance and key partnerships</b>	<b>13</b>
Core ATHENA team members	13
ATHENA Steering Committee	14
Key partnerships	14
Our 2013 donors	18

## Introduction

Since our founding retreat in 2005, ATHENA has been catalyzing linkages between and across gender equality, human rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, and HIV. As we reflect on 2013 and look forward into 2014, we see an ever-changing landscape, where the pivotal gains we achieved in putting women, girls, and gender equality at the center of the HIV response continue to be challenged by shifting international priorities and a funding climate that is hostile to women's rights.

The solidarity we have built and linkages we have forged have held fast. Some of the issues that we have been championing for years are now part of mainstream discussion. This includes the intertwined nature of gender-based violence and HIV, the vital importance of having the most affected at the center of decision-making, and the prevalent and devastating reality that women living with HIV have been denied their right to motherhood through coerced and forced sterilization.

While we celebrate these gains, we also see gaps widening as attention is placed on gender and equality without the institutions, community leaders, and capacity to translate that attention into meaningful change. We see an increase in punitive laws and policies, and hear an ever louder voice calling to keep girls out of schools, take away our ability to plan our families, and silence or outlaw our discussion of our sexuality, pleasure, desire, and identity. In practice, we see what the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) has so aptly called, "the watering of our leaves, and the starving of our roots."

The road ahead is uncertain, but we are pleased and proud to share how in 2013 we followed through with ongoing initiatives and adapted to the evolving landscape. We made a difference to the lives of women and girls in all of our diversity by altering policy frameworks, influencing donors, strengthening women's and young women's engagement with the structures and entities that shape their lives and advance their health, and we mobilized communities to advance our health, rights, and dignity.

To all of our extraordinary partners, our fearless leaders, and our amazing team members, we extend our most sincere thank you!

Building on the progress of previous years, in 2013 ATHENA moved in a new direction through:

- engaging with the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) to support the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy through the roll-out of the new funding model
- amplifying the voices, visions and priorities of young women living with HIV and from key affected populations, through the Link Up project, including a major youth consultation on HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights
- diversifying our flagship Women's Networking Zone (WNZ) to regional platforms at the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and The Pacific (ICAAP) and the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA)
- further engagement with the family planning community. This included representation on the Rights and Empowerment Working Group of Family Planning 2020 and a robust engagement at the International Conference on Family Planning by supporting the participation of young women living with HIV from Eastern Africa and collaboratively convening the think tank, 'Visions, voices and priorities: young people shape their HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda'
- advancing a feminist focus for the post-2015 development agenda by bridging movements, supporting the women's rights caucus, and identifying priorities at the intersection of gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and HIV.

Three clear strands of our global advocacy around HIV, women's rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights continued to frame ATHENA's focus in 2013:

- 1 **Agenda-setting, policy formulation, and advocating for appropriate global resource flows.**
- 2 **Leadership and capacity-building of women in all our diversity – in particular young women, women living with HIV, and women from key affected populations.**
- 3 **Movement-building and knowledge-sharing. Physical and virtual organizing designed to build civil society demand for greater government accountability.**

## Checking in: Goals and objectives 2013–15

In 2012, we established goals and objectives to guide us through the period 2013–15 (see Box 1). In this year's annual report, we acknowledge the guiding influence of these goals on our activities and the strength of their nexus to our mission and achievements. We also reflect on how these aspirational goals have translated into concrete achievements.

### In 2013...

**Goal 1: Reaching inadequately served populations** ATHENA's driving role in Link Up created and expanded platforms for young people in countries where sexual and reproductive health and rights are routinely denied, despite the significance of HIV incidence among young people. Link Up leaves no one behind, reaching out to young women from key affected populations including young women living with HIV, young sex workers, young women who use drugs, and young transgender women.

**Goal 2: Increasing the number of skilled women leaders in high HIV burden countries** The youth think tank, 'Visions, voices and priorities' created a common message to advocate for high-level change, and brainstormed strategies for increased accountability, implementation, and resource mobilization. The Global Fund gender retreat laid the foundations for accelerating the integration of the Gender Equality Strategy into high-level decision-making

**Goal 3: Increasing coalition work, forging networks from global to local levels** The Women's Networking Zones at ICAAP and ICASA connected community leaders, women living with and affected by HIV in all of our diversity, and high-level policy actors to weave a richly-patterned conversation between traditionally disconnected groups.

**Goal 4: Strengthening high-level policies through evidence and rights-based approaches** The West and Central Africa consultation in Dakar emboldened community leaders, encouraging collaboration and a common drive for change in policies on HIV and gender-based violence throughout the region. A customized dialogue, centering on the needs of the region, allowed for information sharing and an experience-driven consultation that better equipped leaders at all levels to face common challenges.

### Box 1: ATHENA's goals and objectives 2013–15

- Goal 1** Provide a sustainable and operational platform and entry point for inadequately served populations of women to lead and inform global, regional, and national policy advocacy towards the advancement of our human rights, quality of life, and well-being
- Goal 2** Increase the number of skilled women leaders, in all our diversity, from high HIV burden countries, directly representing and giving voice to inadequately served populations in policy, planning, and decision-making bodies
- Goal 3** Increase our coalition work with global, regional, and national networks, to strengthen a shared voice on and leadership by, women and girls in all our diversity
- Goal 4** Strengthen global, regional, and national policies and frameworks through collaborative processes and evidence-informed and rights-based approaches to meaningfully address the needs of women and girls in all our diversity.

## What we do

- Promote and facilitate women's leadership and meaningful participation in agenda-setting and critical policy dialogues that feed into the development of, for example, national strategic plans on HIV
- Assemble subject-matter expertise (including the lived-experience expertise of women in all our diversity, especially from those most affected by HIV) and bring this to bear in seminal policy formulation moments
- Convene physical and virtual spaces to provide a platform for often marginalized voices and themes
- Perform policy work with partner organizations and movement-building work through our convening function. The policy work pushes a human rights and gender equality agenda, for example, national strategic plans, pregnancy guidelines for women living with HIV, messaging around the relationship between hormonal contraception and HIV transmission, and halting gender-based violence
- Enable knowledge-sharing and policy analysis via our listserv and collaborative working style. Our work has been looked to and utilized by United Nations partners, other global networks, national non-governmental organizations, and community leaders and advocates



## 1

In West and Central Africa, gender norms perpetuate disempowerment, particularly evidenced by child marriage rates exceeding half of all girls under the age of 18 in a number of countries in the region.

**75%** of girls in Niger are married before the age of 18<sup>1</sup>

**68%** in the Central African Republic<sup>2</sup>

**63%** in Guinea<sup>2</sup>

**55%** in Mali<sup>2</sup>

1. International Center for Research on Women (2013). Child Marriage Hot Spots. Available at: [www.icrw.org/child-marriage-facts-and-figures](http://www.icrw.org/child-marriage-facts-and-figures)

2. UNICEF, Chad, Statistics, HIV/AIDS (2012).

## Agenda-setting, policy formulation, and advocating for appropriate global resource flows

### DRIVING CHANGE ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HIV IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Gender-based violence and HIV are a mutually reinforcing cycle. Women and girls who are HIV positive are more likely to experience violence, and conversely, gender-based violence increases the likelihood of HIV transmission, in part by removing safe sex negotiation from the equation. Addressing gender-based violence and HIV in West and Central Africa is particularly relevant because of the intersection of a disproportionately high number of countries in conflict or post-conflict states, gender norms reinforcing gender-based violence, and the political climate of the Sahel region fosters malnutrition, migration and sex-for-survival.

Building on two global and one regional multi-country workshops held in Nairobi (2010), Istanbul (2011), and Johannesburg (2012), ATHENA spearheaded a three-day West and Central Africa regional consultation focusing on gender-based violence and HIV in September 2013. Six countries from the region participated; Burundi, Cameroun, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ghana and Sénégal, with Nigeria as a resource country. Delegates included representatives from ministries of health and gender, networks of women living with HIV, women's rights organizations, and organizations of men and boys as partners for gender equality. The delegates shared lessons learned from confronting parallel challenges unique to the region and worked towards developing solution-oriented strategies based on those experiences.

On day 1, the meeting sketched a conceptual framework in which the remaining conversations would follow. This covered mapping gender sensitivity in UNAIDS, the structural drivers of HIV, gender norms involving men and boys, the significance of young people as actors for change, and special considerations for HIV in humanitarian and post-conflict emergency settings. Nigeria's experience in addressing gender-based violence and HIV was highlighted. The importance of 'green-light thinking' and the fostering of creativity and kindness as ways of thinking were explored, in addition to traditional strategies of responding to threat and protection and focusing on drive and achievement.

Day two focused on examples of strategies in practice, including the meaningful involvement of women living with HIV, working with uniformed personnel, working holistically across communities and engaging men and boys, and programming for key populations. This also involved drawing on various gender tools (see Box 2).

Day three focused on strategies for resource mobilization, identifying global and local level funding sources and exchanging ways to approach the issues (see Box 3).

Relationships made between key decision-makers in legislative and policy frameworks in West and Central Africa provided a strong basis for future collaboration and information sharing. The consultation also facilitated a common starting point for resource mobilization strategies – identifying local and international funding sources in the public and private sector.

### Box 2: Gender tools

- **Gender Roadmap, On Course** (UNDP). Available at: [www.ug.undp.org/content/dam/uganda/img/Research%20and%20Publications/UNDP-Roadmap-12-11-2012-final.pdf](http://www.ug.undp.org/content/dam/uganda/img/Research%20and%20Publications/UNDP-Roadmap-12-11-2012-final.pdf)
- **UNFPA tools:**  
[www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/4412](http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/4412)  
[www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/6815](http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/6815)  
[www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/8050](http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/8050)  
[www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/13532](http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/13532)
- **Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality and Health** (UNFPA). Available at: [www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/6815](http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/6815)
- **Framework for Integrating Women, Girls and Gender Equality into National Strategic Plans** (HEARD/ATHENA). Available at: [www.athenanetwork.org/assets/files/Framework%20for%20Women,%20Girls,%20and%20Gender%20Equality%20in%20NSPs.pdf](http://www.athenanetwork.org/assets/files/Framework%20for%20Women,%20Girls,%20and%20Gender%20Equality%20in%20NSPs.pdf)
- **UNAIDS Gender Assessment Tool: Towards a gender-transformative response.** Available at: [www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaidspublication/2014/JC2543\\_gender-assessment\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaidspublication/2014/JC2543_gender-assessment_en.pdf)

### Box 3: West and Central Africa consultation: key strategies for action

- Building the capacity of women living with HIV, including to enhance their economic empowerment
- Involvement of women living with HIV in the development of national strategic plans to address HIV and gender-based violence
- Advocacy and sensitization around the importance of keeping girls in schools
- Resource mobilization to ensure implementation of national strategic plans
- Context specific identification and involvement of key populations
- Advocacy to strengthen the legal framework on gender-based violence
- Capacity-building on gender, human rights, and rights-based approaches among members of the armed forces
- Integration of strategies to engage men and boys in gender equality in national strategic plans
- Introducing mechanisms for detecting and referring incidences of gender-based violence
- Media campaigns for sensitizing men and boys around gender-based violence and HIV
- Elaborating action plans around working with and for key populations
- Promoting literacy programmes for women and girls



## ADVANCING A FEMINIST FOCUS FOR THE POST-2015 AGENDA



The structural drivers of HIV are too often given inadequate attention in the HIV response. This includes the need to address gender-based violence, economic disempowerment, lack of education, and non-integrated sexual and reproductive health services. Budgets and plans to address HIV also tend to lack gender-sensitivity, for example, costings specific to gender and women's rights. Without diversifying decision-making, the potential for local voices to be heard will not be realized. The most affected communities must be meaningfully engaged to ensure the power and money involved in addressing HIV is evenly distributed.

In March 2013, ATHENA collaborated with Salamander Trust, International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC), and GESTOS to convene a two-day think tank in New York on the position of women's rights in the post-2015 development agenda. The workshop took place during the meeting of the 57th Commission on the Status of Women. Feminist civil society actors from across HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, and human rights sectors came together to share ideas and enact high-level change.

Participants mapped existing platforms for change and drew up action points for applying new strategies. They identified five strategic priorities:

- accountability and implementation
- linking global and local communication streams
- resource mobilization for the collective agenda
- ensuring a high-level commitment to address the diversity of women and girls
- building a diverse movement to ensure representation of those most affected, particularly women and girls living with HIV.

The group compiled key messages and commitments for policymakers, and guarantees of transparency and support on the part of community leaders and grassroots activists. Five key priorities were identified to guide advocacy messages (see Box 4). Participants also noted key allies necessary for a comprehensive response to addressing gender-based violence and integrating HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Specific advocacy platforms were identified, in particular: the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD +20); the development of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals; and the Beyond 2015 campaign that is pushing for a strong post-2015 development framework to replace the Millennium Development Goals.

The think tank opened the door to continued dialogue, and, more importantly, created space for community actors to more effectively take part in the post-2015 decision-making process..

### Bringing women's rights, HIV, SRHR, and responses to GBV into the post-2015 agenda

On the eve of the Meeting of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the post-2015 development agenda, we ask that you ensure comprehensive and cross-cutting attention to women's rights and gender equality throughout the post-2015 framework with attention to:

- **advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** particularly for young women in all our diversity
- **ending gender-based violence (GBV)**, particularly as experienced by the most marginalized, and moving beyond that to ensure a safe and secure world for all women and girls
- **ensuring continued attention to HIV** as a public health and human rights priority

We seek specific goals, targets, and associated indicators in each of these three overlapping areas, and recognition of the diversity of women and girls and our rights to be at the center of the next development paradigm.

#### KEY MESSAGES FOR POLICY-MAKERS

#### We urge you to adopt the following strategic priorities

##### PRIORITY 1

##### High-level commitment to multi-sectoral approaches that address the diversity of women and girls and our rights

- Act beyond maternal and child health in policy implementation and resourcing across sectors, to include:
  - guaranteed sexual and reproductive rights
  - universal access to sexual and reproductive health services
  - equal access to quality education
  - economic security
  - removal of laws and policies that act as barriers to the enjoyment of health and rights
  - elimination of GBV and moving beyond

#### and we will ...

- ✓ Be honest about the reality of women's and girls' lives
- ✓ Be specific – sometimes it will be a long list
- ✓ Have conversations with other people in other movements
- ✓ Practice what we preach
- ✓ Commit to building and better understanding our diversity (e.g. people living with HIV, LGBTI; sex workers; women who use drugs; young women; human rights, grassroots and feminist movements).
- ✓ Commit to inclusion and equity and reaching the most marginalized groups, striving for representation and participation of those most affected.

### Box 4: Key messages for policymakers: We urge you to adopt the following strategic priorities throughout the post-2015 framework

1. High-level commitment to multi-sectoral approaches that address the diversity of women and girls and our rights
2. Build the diversity of the movement and ensure the representation of those most affected by the issues
3. Accountability to women's and girls' rights and implementation of interventions
4. Reciprocal global-to-local linkages: communications and effective coordination
5. Resource mobilization for our collective agenda. Overcome gender inequalities through 'money-sharing = power-sharing = shared decision-making'

## CHAMPIONING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH THE GLOBAL FUND

With 60% of new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa among women and girls, it was hoped that the Global Fund's 2008 Gender Equality Strategy would give gender the special attention and emphasis it deserves. But, many of the key actors in the Global Fund are seemingly unaware of the strategy, and, until July 2014, only one staff member in the Global Fund Secretariat was mandated to focus primarily on gender. National strategic plans do not address or integrate the strategy. New efforts are urgently needed to shift gender to the forefront and give it full recognition and support. The launch of the Global Fund's new funding model offers an opportunity to rectify the poor performance of the past in regards to women and advancing gender equality.

**WNZ WOMEN'S NETWORKING ZONE**

**If not now, then when?**  
Implementing the gender equality strategy in the era of the Global Fund's new funding model

Join us in the Women's Networking Zone for an informal, frank and participative discussion exploring past barriers and future opportunities for implementation of the Global Fund's gender equality strategy.

**FRAMING QUESTIONS**

- ★ How and why has the Global Fund's gender equality strategy not been fully implemented?
- ★ How can the new funding model promote, facilitate and accelerate implementation?
- ★ What are the entry points for gender advocacy and programming?
- ★ What are some key actions moving forward?
- ★ How do we resource these?

**SPEAKERS**

Kate Thomson Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria  
Carol Nyirenda Community Initiative for Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and Malaria (CITAM Plus)  
Robin Gorna ASAP (AIDS Strategy, Advocacy and Policy)  
Samanta Sokolowski Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)  
Zelda Nhlabatsi Family Life Association of Swaziland (FLAS)  
Steve Letsike South Africa National AIDS Council (SANAC)  
Luisa Orza ATHENA Network  
Johanna Kehler AIDS Legal Network

**Women4GF**  
Women in all their diversity for the Global Fund Gender Equality Strategy

A joint initiative between ASAP (AIDS Strategy, Advocacy and Policy) and ATHENA, which resulted in the creation of Women4GF, aims to coordinate and strengthen the ability of women's rights advocates to engage at all levels with the Global Fund and its new funding model from a gender-equality perspective.

In 2013, ATHENA continued to support women's engagement with the Global Fund and in particular co-convened the global workshop, held in Geneva, **'Strengthening women's engagement with the Global Fund to champion gender equality through the new funding model and beyond'**. The workshop was facilitated and organized in partnership with ASAP.

"I am concerned that if we don't talk about women specifically, language and discussions related to women in all their diversity will be lost in the broader gender rhetoric."

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

"Perhaps we don't adequately consider our own responsibilities. At country level, it's important that we take the initiative to influence governments because they are the most influential in setting policies and programming."

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

The workshop involved 35 participants from 20 countries – of whom 23 are community-based women's rights activists, and over 75% are openly living with HIV. There was fruitful discussion, particularly from women organizing for change at grassroots level. Giving voice to and hearing from those most affected, was a powerful dimension to the dialogue.

The workshop was also an opportunity to examine the experiences of two of the 'early applicant' countries – Zimbabwe and Myanmar – and evaluate the challenges and obstacles faced in effectively integrating gender into country dialogues. Issues such as the need for technical expertise, lack of advance notice and time for planning and drafting documents, and a lack of capacity in women's groups, were mentioned.

Participants used a gap analysis to identify problems with the Global Fund in respect to gender, and importantly, to identify barriers to a more effective integration. Based on the analysis, participants pinpointed ways of addressing the

challenges and moving forward. This process ensured a productive mindset of forward-looking change, avoiding any dwelling on past shortfalls (see Box 5).

The workshop renewed participant's spirit for change and gave impetus to the push for a gender focus within the Global Fund leadership.

Strategically, the meeting was timed to coincide with discussions at the Global Fund's Strategy, Investment and Impact Committee (SIIC). Participants submitted a formal recommendation to the SIIC and debriefed the outcomes of the retreat with the Executive Director of the Global Fund.

#### Box 5: Goals for forward-thinking change

1. Targeted and informed advocacy at grassroots level
2. Gender-disaggregated data
3. Gender capacity-building in Country Coordinating Mechanisms
4. Grassroots knowledge sharing on gender and the Gender Equality Strategy
5. Required gender analysis in concept notes

**For more information and workshop documents visit:** <http://women4gf.org>

## Women4GF

Women in all their diversity for the Global Fund Gender Equality Strategy

ATHENA provided the M&E expertise and supported the success of three ensuing workshops developed by ASAP.

In Paris, the workshop, '**Improving the TB response from a gender perspective**' was held in the margins of the 44th Union World Conference on Lung Health. Nearly 20 individuals with extensive experience on TB advocacy, from 13 countries, met to focus on gender equality and the Global Fund.

A regional workshop, '**Women in all their diversity for the Global Fund Gender Equality Strategy**' was held with and for HIV and women's rights advocates in Bangkok, immediately prior to the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) in November.

An Africa advocates workshop '**Women in all our diversity for the Global Fund Gender Equality Strategy**' was held in December, immediately before the start of ICASA. The Women4GF Africa advocates workshop was organized to mobilize stronger action on gender equality through the Global Fund's new funding model. More than 40 individuals attended from over a dozen countries across Africa.

All workshop documents available at: <http://women4gf.org>

## 2

"Nobody can have a better voice than youth [themselves]. They are the ones who know their issues and ways to deal with them."

YOUNG WOMAN,  
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

"Teach young women how to protect themselves and teach our young men how to handle themselves: a woman's body is not a war zone."

YOUNG FEMINIST WOMAN,  
EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

## Leadership and capacity-building of women in all our diversity

### VOICES, VISIONS AND PRIORITIES: LINK UP DIALOGUES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people account for 40% of new HIV infections worldwide, and young women are twice as likely to contract HIV as their male peers. Being young and contracting HIV presents extreme challenges. Parents may ostracize and shun a child for being HIV positive, financial instability contributes to vulnerability, and transitioning from childhood to being a young woman living with HIV can mean an absence of access to care and peer support networks. Young women living with HIV crucially need support, as it can be a time when other systems of support falter. In many countries, it is particularly problematic as sexual and reproductive health services may be tailored to married women of reproductive age and HIV services tend to focus on an older adult population. There is a real need for HIV and sexual and reproductive health services to be linked and brought to young people.

In its inaugural year, Link Up has already made waves in the youth and adolescent communities living with and most affected by HIV. Link Up provides a platform for young people living with HIV in Bangladesh, Burundi, Ethiopia, Myanmar, and Uganda to engage in the HIV response as integrated with sexual and reproductive health and rights. Focusing on this integrated approach, Link Up connects with young marginalized and traditionally underserved populations, including; young men who have sex with men, young sex workers, young people who use drugs, young transgender people and young men and women living with HIV. Engaging with most-at-risk young people across the five countries works to close the gap in HIV risk and ensure sexual and reproductive health services are available to all young people.

As a key policy partner, ATHENA has been instrumental in Link Up, especially in mobilizing and giving voice to the community of young women living with HIV and young women from other key affected populations.

One of the year's highlights was the Youth HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights consultation conducted in collaboration with the Global Youth Coalition on HIV and AIDS (GYCA), another Link Up global policy partner. An online survey was disseminated in five languages and had over 800 responses. These were

supplemented with community dialogues and focus group discussions among young people living with HIV and from key affected populations in the five focus countries – engaging another 400+ young people. Findings from the consultation laid the groundwork for a series of policy briefs used at the International Family Planning Conference and ICASA, and have underpinned Link Up policy and advocacy at global, regional, and national levels.

These platforms helped open up dialogue and break the silence surrounding HIV in the lives of young people living with HIV. Future dialogue at similar conferences and forums in Bangladesh, Burundi, Ethiopia, Myanmar, and Uganda will build a strong collective voice.

Link Up not only brings together young people living with HIV directly, but also engages indirectly by mobilizing institutional partners and other women living with HIV outside of the focus countries. This creates a groundswell of change among the broader community, with a special focus and emphasis on the countries of interest. The International Family Planning Conference, ICASA and Young Women's Leadership Initiative (see page 11) stand as key measures of Link Up's progress.



For more information on Link Up visit: [www.aidsalliance.org/Pagedetails.aspx?id=541](http://www.aidsalliance.org/Pagedetails.aspx?id=541)

## JOINT POSITION ON POST-2015:

### What a stand-alone health goal needs to deliver for highly marginalized and stigmatized young people

For consideration in the development of the final report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the discussions and outcomes of the High-Level Event on the Contributions of Women, Youth and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Framework, and in the discussions and outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development.

Young people living with and affected by HIV – especially young women and girls living with HIV, young people who engage in sex work, young men who have sex with men, young transgender people and young people who use drugs – belong to the most marginalized and stigmatized groups across the world. In many countries, the existence of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people and men who have sex with men is ignored or denied. This denial, in combination with discrimination, violence, punitive legislation, and harmful attitudes and norms around “appropriate” sexual behavior, poses a major barrier to young people’s ability to access quality health services and fully realize their human rights – including their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Many countries have championed SRHR during Open Working Group negotiations, the ICPD Beyond 2014 review, and in the 2012 Bali Global Youth Declaration and the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. Many civil society organizations have likewise called for prioritizing SRHR for young people, especially those of young people living with and most vulnerable to HIV. The final negotiations on the post-2015 development framework must reflect this strong support for promoting the health and human rights, including the SRHR, of young people living with and affected by HIV.

#### A UNIFYING HEALTH AND RIGHTS

We strongly support the business of the health MI incorporated in the new single health goal. We also that a stand-alone health commitments to ensuring all forms of gender-based and universal access to h including SRHR. The right of narrowing health inequ post-2015 health agenda. human rights law and sta enjoyment of the highest from violence, coercion, t



#### LINKUP

Link Up aims to advance the sexual young people affected by HIV across in being implemented by a consort Alliance. For more information visit

Photo: Member of DALCIN (Gay and Les & Half Foundation for the International HIV

The programme is being implemented by a consortium of partners led by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance. As part of Link Up, consortium members Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA) and the ATHENA Network led a consultation with young people living with and affected by HIV. Nearly 800 people from every region of the world responded to a global online survey that collected quantitative and qualitative data in five languages<sup>1</sup>, and over 400 young people<sup>2</sup> participated in a series of community dialogues and focus groups with national partners in Ethiopia, Uganda, Burundi, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

<sup>1</sup> The online survey was in English, Spanish, French, Burmese and seven. 20% of participants identified primarily as lesbian, gay, bi, trans, transgender, queer or otherwise LGBTIQ. 8.7% as people living with HIV, 7.2% as LGBTIQ, 11.2% as young men who have sex with men, 0.5% as people who use drugs, and 0.7% as people who use drugs. Of respondents who self-identified as LGBT, 1.8% were aged 20-24, 23% were aged 25-29, 28% were aged 30-34, and 23% were 35+.

<sup>2</sup> Dialogue and focus group participants were aged 20-29. They felt comfortable identifying with a particular sexual orientation or gender identity. 10% identified themselves as LGBTIQ, 11.2% as young men who have sex with men, 0.5% as people who use drugs, and 0.7% as people who use drugs. Of respondents who self-identified as LGBT, 1.8% were aged 20-24, 23% were aged 25-29, 28% were aged 30-34, and 23% were 35+.

“There should be an early engagement into sex education for young people. In my country, it is still taboo to talk about sex and sexuality with young people. They end up resorting to the media to learn, when parents and extended family should be assuming this role.”

YOUNG WOMAN,  
EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Family planning 2013: Visions, voices, and priorities of young people living with and affected by HIV

Nearly 20% of respondents in the online survey said they never or rarely felt free to make decisions about whether or not, and when, to have children without fear that anyone would get angry with them, discriminate against them, or act violently towards them.



## YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

In 2011, the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA) and ATHENA launched the Young Women's Leadership Initiative (YWLI) to support a group of young women living with HIV to take part in two global conferences. ATHENA continues to champion this initiative and in 2013 joined forces with Link Up to organize the participation of a group of young people at ICASA in South Africa.

A core group of nine young women living with HIV from Ethiopia, Burundi, Uganda, and South Africa (and one young man from the men who have sex with men community) took part. Others joined in on an ad hoc basis, including young women from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Togo, DRC, and beyond. Five older women activists from the HIV and women's rights, sex worker and LGBTI rights communities mentored the younger participants.

### The Young Women's Leadership Initiative

The Young Women's Leadership Initiative is an opportunity for personal and professional leadership development for young women living with HIV; for mentorship from older, more experienced activists and, for advancing the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people in all of their diversity, especially those most affected by HIV.

The initiative aims to:

- increase the visibility of young women living with HIV, supporting them to claim spaces within the conference environment
- define priority issues affecting young women living with HIV, and also showcase leadership and community-driven solutions
- increase their knowledge, skills and advocacy experience, particularly with regard to achieving sexual and reproductive rights in the context of HIV.

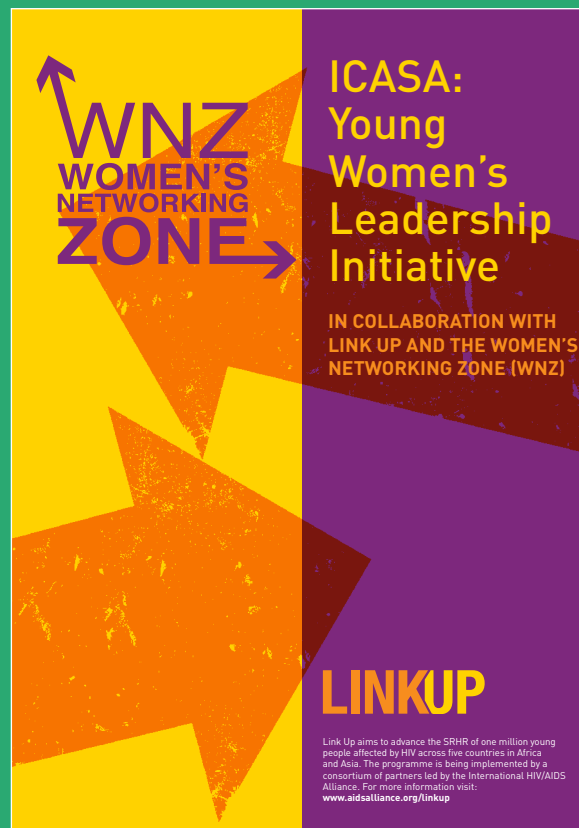


"As a leader, this was my first time in a conference and my first time to stand up and speak. It was great to speak on the issues of rape and discrimination for lesbians and our children. Lesbians are not safe in \*my country\*. I took a stand! I felt so good."

YOUNG WOMAN PARTICIPANT,  
YWLII@ICASA2013

"I always expect an expression when I introduce myself as an HIV positive mother and a lesbian. Yesterday, everyone just embraced me as another woman and leader. No judgement."

YOUNG WOMAN, PARTICIPANT  
YWLII@ICASA2013





## 3

In Ethiopia, people are not open about their sexuality. You don't see transwomen. I had not been exposed. In Ethiopia, there is discrimination and even punishment for people even suspected to be gay. Now I will have so much more compassion and understanding of the issue and the people when I return home.

YOUNG WOMAN, ETHIOPIA, PARTICIPANT  
YWLI@ICASA13

It [YWLI@ICASA13] gave me a platform to be open. I have always felt embarrassed to share my positive status, but this was like a home for me where I could speak openly without judgment. I could ask any questions without feeling stupid.

YOUNG WOMAN, SOUTH AFRICA,  
PARTICIPANT YWLI@ICASA13

## Movement-building and knowledge-sharing

### DIVERSIFYING THE WOMEN'S NETWORKING ZONE TO REGIONAL PLATFORMS

In 2000, at the first International AIDS Conference (IAC) in Durban, a small group of committed women's rights advocates found that there was no place where research and community could meet. This recognition led to the creation of Women at Durban in 2000, Women at Barcelona in 2002, and Women at Bangkok in 2004. ATHENA grew out this women's parallel organizing around IACs, and in 2006 created the first Women's Networking Zone with the Blueprint Coalition.

Women's Networking Zones are unique because they create a space for women in all of our diversity, including women living with HIV, young women, and key affected women from the local community to come together, share experiences, showcase work, and move the agenda from the mainstream to the margins. They also bring together a wide range of people from policy analysts to decision-makers, creating new networks and alliances between those otherwise unlikely to meet.

In 2013, ATHENA and local community partners, took the Women's Networking Zone outside the confines of the IAC to ICAAP in November, and ICASA in December. At both conferences, the Women's Networking Zone created a vibrant focus for women to organize at the regional level and beyond, and lay important groundwork for AIDS2014 in Melbourne, Australia.

ATHENA looks forward to the IAC returning to Durban, South Africa in 2016.



#### Women's Networking Zones have been held at:

- AIDS2006, Toronto
- International Women's Summit 2007, Nairobi
- AIDS2008, Mexico City
- AIDS2010, Vienna
- IAS Pathogenesis Conference 2011, Rome
- ICASA2011, Addis Ababa
- AIDS2012, Washington DC
- ICAAP2013, Bangkok
- ICASA2013, Cape Town

## ATHENA governance and key partnerships

ATHENA operates with a virtual team so as to ensure our global reach and our ability to function as leanly as possible without the financial and administrative burden of office space and other costs associated with a physical organization. Moreover, it is a political choice for all of our team members to be deeply rooted in our local communities and for us to be able to function and deliver high impact and high caliber work in the context of our lives where we wear “many hats”. Strategic direction is provided by our Coordinating Director, and the network programs are overseen by our Program Director. In April 2014, we added a policy and advocacy officer to our core team to strengthen our Young Women’s Leadership Initiative, and to expand our country level activities. Teams are built on a per project basis as all of ATHENA’s funding is project-driven. ATHENA’s work is carried out in partnership and/or in consultation with our members.

ATHENA is governed by our Steering Committee, and our administrative work is carried out by our fiscal sponsor The Mirembé Project. The Mirembé Project, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity, was created to advance social justice and community enterprise in the developing world. Mirembé has supported the work of projects that focus on youth empowerment, violence against women, and the rights of people with HIV/AIDS to access treatment and appropriate health care. The Mirembé Project has acted as a fiscal sponsor for ATHENA activities since ATHENA’s inception in 2005, as well as for its pre-cursor Women at Barcelona (2002). Fiscal oversight is assured by maintaining a close relationship with ATHENA’s coordinators, and providing technical assistance where necessary. ATHENA is required to report to Mirembé Project on all uses of funds, and Mirembé is audited each year. Mirembé Project is paid a 5% administrative fee for the services it provides to ATHENA.

## CORE ATHENA TEAM MEMBERS

Our core team, funded only on a project basis at present, includes:

**Tyler Crone**, USA, a human rights lawyer and public health researcher with expertise in gender and HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights, providing overall management, guidance, and strategic direction as ATHENA’s co-founder and Coordinating Director

**Luisa Orza**, UK, an expert in participatory M&E on HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and violence against women living with HIV, Trustee of STOPAIDS, and a writer in her own life, providing leadership and substance to ATHENA’s many streams of work as our Program Director

**Ebony Johnson**, USA, a sexual and reproductive health and rights champion and expert in HIV research, strengthening our work with young women living with and affected by HIV

**Calorine Kenkem**, Cameroon, an expert in addressing gender-based violence and overcoming stigma and discrimination who is expanding our work and alliances in West and Central Africa

**Steve Letsike**, South Africa, current chair of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) (former chair of LGBT and women’s sectors) and gender-based violence and gender diversities policy expert, leading our national strategic planning work and training on women, girls, and gender equality in Southern Africa

**Hereni Melesse**, Ethiopia, a gender and development expert who is strengthening our work with young women in all their diversity and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV integration

**Zhenya Maron**, Ukraine, member of WECARe+ who leads our Russian translation and assists in building our bridges to Eastern Europe and Central Asia

**Helena Nagombe**, Namibia, youth HIV advocate and women’s rights champion, providing leadership and peer mentorship to the Young Women’s Leadership Initiative

**Jane Shepherd**, UK, graphic designer and copy editor who makes much of our work visible with her vision and ability to deliver on the most impossible of timelines

**Kelly Starcevich**, USA, lawyer and human rights expert who lends her technical know-how and research skills to our work

**Jacqui Stevenson**, UK, gender and human rights expert who is strengthening our work with young women in all their diversity and advancing SRHR and HIV integration

**Liz Tremlett**, Nepal, women's rights and HIV expert who brings her vast experience in addressing stigma and discrimination to our work

**MariJo Vazquez**, Spain, former Chair of ICW and founding chair of ATHENA whose expertise in addressing violence against women living with HIV and her Spanish and French translation and technical know-how makes our work accessible and our processes more inclusive

**Alice Welbourn**, UK, Founder of Salamander Trust and Stepping Stones who serves as an advisor to and trainer within most ATHENA projects

**Rachel Yassky**, USA, Co-Founder of ATHENA and a lawyer and business school graduate by training, whose expertise is in gender and development with a specific emphasis on organizational capacity-strengthening. Her knowledge, know-how and financial management has been fundamental to ATHENA's success

## ATHENA STEERING COMMITTEE

**Louise Binder**, Acting Chair (Canada) \*Louise has recently assumed a full-time post and as of May 2014 stepped down from her governance role

**Dr. Johanna Kehler** (South Africa)

**Eugenia López Uribe** (Mexico)

**Dr. Lydia Mungherera** (Uganda)

**Lauren Suchman** (USA)

**Dr. Ida Susser** (USA)

**Dr. Alice Welbourn** (UK)

**Rachel Yassky**, Finance Officer (USA/South Africa)

\* We are currently recruiting for additional geographic and key stakeholder diversity to ensure a robust and representative governance body. Two new leaders will be joining us before the end of 2014.

## KEY PARTNERSHIPS

This is not an exhaustive list of ATHENA partners and members, but serves to demonstrate the ways and extent to which ATHENA promotes the leadership and meaningful involvement of women living with HIV, and other networks and organizations of inadequately served populations of women. The tables list key partners and the areas of work in relation to which we have sought partnerships and collaborations.

NETWORKS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV	
PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
<b>Argentinean Network of Women Living with HIV</b>	➤ Young Women's Leadership Initiative (Washington DC 2012)
<b>Blueprint Coalition</b>	➤ WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2006 ➤ WNZ Partnership, 2008, 2010, 2012
<b>Bolivian Network of People Living with HIV</b>	➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011
<b>Cambodian Community of Women Living with HIV</b>	➤ Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs
<b>EVA</b> (Russia)	➤ Young Women's Leadership Initiative (Rome 2011, Washington DC 2012)
<b>GNP+ (Global Network of People Living with HIV)</b>	➤ Young Women's Leadership Initiative ➤ Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk
<b>Her Rights Initiative</b> (South Africa)	➤ NSP Framework development and review ➤ Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs
<b>ICWAP (International Community of Women Living with HIV Asia Pacific)/ WAPN+ (Women of the Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV)</b>	➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011 ➤ WNZ, 2013 and 2014 ➤ W4GF
<b>ICW (International Community of Women Living with HIV) East Africa</b>	➤ Young Women's Leadership Initiative ➤ Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk ➤ WNZ 2013 ➤ W4GF ➤ Link Up

NETWORKS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV	
PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
<b>ICW Global</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Member of ATHENA Steering Committee</li> <li>➤ WNZ coordinating partner 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012</li> <li>➤ WNZ lead 2014</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk</li> </ul>
<b>ICW North America</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Former member of ATHENA Steering Committee</li> <li>➤ WNZ coordinating partner 2012</li> </ul>
<b>ICW West and Central Africa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Young Women's Leadership Initiative</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk</li> <li>➤ Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs</li> </ul>
<b>Indonesian Network of Women Living with HIV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Young Women's Leadership Initiative</li> <li>➤ W4GF</li> </ul>
<b>Jamaica Community of Women Living with HIV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs</li> <li>➤ Young Women's Leadership Initiative (Washington DC, 2012)</li> <li>➤ W4GF</li> </ul>
<b>Malawi Coalition of Women Living With HIV and AIDS (COWLHA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community Innovations on SRHR and HIV</li> <li>➤ W4GF</li> </ul>
<b>Mama's Club (Uganda)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Member of ATHENA Steering Committee</li> <li>➤ Community Innovations on SRHR and HIV</li> <li>➤ NSP Framework development and review</li> <li>➤ MenEngage coordination</li> </ul>
<b>Namibia Women's Health Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NSP Framework development and review</li> <li>➤ Documenting and advocacy on forced and coerced sterilization among women living with HIV</li> <li>➤ Young Women's Leadership Initiative (Rome 2011, Addis Ababa 2011, Washington DC 2012)</li> <li>➤ W4GF</li> </ul>

NETWORKS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV	
PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
<b>Network of Positive Women Ethiopians</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Young Women's Leadership Initiative (Rome and Addis Ababa 2011)</li> <li>➤ WNZ Coordinating Partner, Addis Ababa 2011</li> <li>➤ Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of National Strategic Planning on HIV and AIDS</li> </ul>
<b>Positively UK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> </ul>
<b>PozFem UK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> </ul>
<b>Puls HIV (Austria)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WNZ Coordinating Partner 2010</li> </ul>
<b>Salamander Trust</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Member of Steering Committee</li> <li>➤ WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2010</li> <li>➤ WNZ Partnership, 2012</li> <li>➤ NSP Framework development and review</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk</li> </ul>
<b>SERES (Portugal)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> </ul>
<b>SisterLove (Washington DC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community Innovations on SRHR and HIV</li> <li>➤ WNZ partnership, 2012</li> </ul>
<b>South Africa Positive Women's Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2013 and 2014</li> </ul>
<b>SWAPOL (Swaziland for Positive Living)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Women's HIV Prevention Tracking Project (WHIPT) 2009-2011</li> </ul>
<b>Tajik Women's Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Young Women's Leadership Initiative (Rome 2011)</li> <li>➤ Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs</li> </ul>
<b>US Positive Women's Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2011 and 2012</li> </ul>
<b>Voices of Positive Women (Toronto, Canada)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2006</li> </ul>

NETWORKS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV	
PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
<b>WECARE+ (Women in Europe and Central Asia Regions Plus)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2010</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk</li> </ul>
<b>Zimbabwe Network of Women Living with HIV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of National Strategic Planning on HIV and AIDS</li> </ul>

NETWORKS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF OTHER INADEQUATELY SERVED POPULATIONS *	
PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
<b>Caregivers Action Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NSP Framework development and review</li> </ul>
<b>Different Avenues (United States)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community Innovations SRHR and HIV</li> <li>➤ WNZ partnership 2012</li> </ul>
<b>European Harm Reduction Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community Innovations on SRHR and HIV</li> </ul>
<b>GALZ (Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of National Strategic Planning on HIV and AIDS</li> </ul>
<b>Grassroots Women Trust</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of National Strategic Planning on HIV and AIDS</li> </ul>
<b>GROOTS Kenya</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community Innovations on SRHR and HIV</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ WNZ Partnership, 2012</li> </ul>
<b>Harm Reduction International</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WNZ Participation 2012</li> </ul>
<b>Huairou Commission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community Innovations on SRHR and HIV</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ WNZ partnership 2010, 2012</li> </ul>
<b>ILGA (International Lesbian and Gay Association)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WNZ partnership, 2010, 2012</li> </ul>
<b>INPUD (International Network of People who Use Drugs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> </ul>
<b>Network of Sex Worker Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk</li> </ul>

\* Including women who use/inject drugs, sex workers, lesbian, bisexual or transgender women, and grassroots women, including caregivers.

NETWORKS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF OTHER INADEQUATELY SERVED POPULATIONS	
PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
<b>SANAC (South African National AIDS Council) LBT sector</b> (South Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community Innovations on SRHR and HIV</li> <li>➤ Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of National Strategic Planning on HIV and AIDS</li> </ul>
<b>SWEAT (Sex Worker Education and Advocacy Taskforce)</b> (South Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NSP Framework development and review</li> </ul>
<b>TAMPEP (European Network for HIV/STI Prevention and Health Promotion among Migrant Sex Workers)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs, 2010</li> </ul>

KEY PARTNERS	
PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
<b>AIDS Legal Network</b> (South Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Member of ATHENA Steering Committee</li> <li>➤ WNZ partnership 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013</li> <li>➤ Mujeres Adelante</li> <li>➤ 10 Reasons Why Criminalization Harms Women</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ Documenting and advocacy on forced sterilization among women living with HIV</li> <li>➤ NSP Framework development and review</li> </ul>
<b>AVAC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WHIPT Project</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk</li> <li>➤ WNZ Partnership 2010, 2012, 2013</li> </ul>
<b>Balance Promocion para el desarrollo y juventud</b> (Mexico)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Member of ATHENA Steering Committee</li> <li>➤ WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2008</li> <li>➤ WNZ Partnership 2006, 2010, 2012</li> <li>➤ Community Innovations on SRHR and HIV</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk, 2012</li> </ul>

KEY PARTNERS	
PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
<b>Gender Equality and HIV Prevention Programme, HEARD, University of Kwa Zulu Natal</b> (South Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NSP Framework development and review</li> <li>➤ Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs</li> <li>➤ Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of National Strategic Planning on HIV and AIDS</li> </ul>
<b>Global Coalition on Women and AIDS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Young Women's Leadership Initiative</li> <li>➤ WNZ partnership 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ WNZ 2013</li> </ul>
<b>Ipas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WNZ partnership 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012</li> <li>➤ Community Innovations on SRHR and HIV</li> </ul>
<b>Sonke Gender Justice</b> (South Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NSP Framework development and review</li> <li>➤ Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs</li> </ul>
<b>STOP AIDS NOW!</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WNZ partnership 2008, 2010, 2012</li> <li>➤ NSP Framework development and review</li> <li>➤ Documenting and advocacy on forced sterilization among women living with HIV</li> <li>➤ Link Up policy partner</li> </ul>
<b>UNAIDS (United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community Innovations SRHR and HIV</li> <li>➤ Gender assessment process and tool development</li> <li>➤ WNZ partnership 2011, 2012, 2013</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs</li> </ul>
<b>UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Supported the development of a 2009 'best practice' model of community advocacy to document and address the coerced sterilization of women living with HIV in Namibia with the Namibia Women's Health Network</li> <li>➤ Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs</li> <li>➤ WNZ partnership 2008, 2010, 2012</li> <li>➤ Mapping of the HIV response for women, girls and gender equality</li> </ul>

KEY PARTNERS	
PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
<b>UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs</li> <li>➤ WNZ partnership 2008</li> <li>➤ Mapping of the HIV response for women, girls and gender equality</li> </ul>
<b>UN Women</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Advancing Women's Leadership and Participation in the AIDS Response, 2007-2010</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ WNZ Partnership 2002 - 2014</li> </ul>
<b>World YWCA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WNZ partnership, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012</li> <li>➤ Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011</li> <li>➤ NSP Framework development and review</li> </ul>
ADDITIONAL LINK UP PARTNERS	
	PARTNER
<b>Networks of people living with HIV</b>	Ashar Alo Society, Bangladesh
	Burundi Network of Young People Living with HIV
	Millennium Raey Association, Ethiopia
	Myanmar Network of Women Living with HIV
	Uganda Young Positives and Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV
<b>Key populations</b>	Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS
	World YWCA and YWCA Myanmar



## OUR 2013 DONORS

### **ATHENA gratefully acknowledges the partnership and support of:**

International HIV/AIDS Alliance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Netherlands (BUZA) through the Link Up project.

GIZ

Global Coalition on Women and AIDS

UNAIDS

UNDP

UNFPA

Thank you to Kelly Starceвич for leading on the development of this annual report, and to Jane Shepherd for her beautiful design.

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



ATHENA

[www.athenanetwork.org](http://www.athenanetwork.org)