

## AHN membership

Membership is open to heart foundations and CVD societies committed to the accomplishment of our vision and mission.

The benefits of being a member of the AHN include:

- ♥ Becoming part of an established African network fighting against CVD in Africa.
- ♥ Having the opportunity to profile your work throughout Africa and beyond through the AHN and World Heart Federation network.
- ♥ Accessing shared scientific knowledge in Africa and internationally.
- ♥ Accessing CVD programmes and information to build and grow a country's heart foundation.
- ♥ Being part of a united African front when challenging government policies on CVD.
- ♥ Meeting with all member countries for networking, growth and support opportunities.
- ♥ Funding opportunities for certain CVD programmes in member countries at the Board's discretion.

We invite foundations, societies and individuals interested in joining AHN to contact us for further information.

### Secretariat

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**AFRICAN  
HEART  
NETWORK**

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Bringing together  
**Heart Foundations**  
across Africa

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## African Heart Network

*The African Heart Network (AHN) is a coalition of heart foundations, cardiac societies and individuals working in the field of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in Africa.*

The AHN was founded in 2001 by African heart health professionals to provide a platform and a voice for civil society on CVD issues in Africa. We form a part of the global CVD community through membership of the World Heart Federation. We work towards the improvement of public health through CVD prevention and treatment.

## Why do we exist?

The global burden of CVD continues to grow as it remains the number one cause of death. Tackling CVD in Africa is one of the major challenges for development as it is affecting already poor and disadvantaged populations. The World Health Organization projects that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Africa will overtake all other causes of death by 2030. Globally deaths due to NCDs are expected to increase by 17% over the next ten years, with the greatest increase (27%) in the African region, principally due to hypertension, stroke, cardiomyopathy, and rheumatic heart disease.

## Our vision

The AHN's vision is to play a leading role in the prevention and reduction of CVD, so that it will no longer be the major cause of premature death and disability throughout Africa.

## Our mission is to:

- ♥ Increase networking among African countries.
- ♥ Have a clear public image relating specifically to CVD health.
- ♥ Ensure that both policy and legislation promote cardiovascular health.
- ♥ Disseminate and promote research into CVD.
- ♥ Promote heart healthy lifestyles among children, young people and families.

## Our activities

The AHN provides assistance to establish heart foundations in African countries and advocates on a range of CVD topics. We endeavor to work with governments and civil society to mobilise action in support of the prevention and treatment of CVD in Africa. We aim to work towards the development of a collaborative and integrated approach to tackling NCDs in Africa.

Some of the activities that we are involved in include:

- ♥ Organizing workshops and meetings where experts report on heart health promotion campaigns and the results of recent research.
- ♥ Monitoring policy discussions on the African Continent which have an impact on CVD.
- ♥ Raising awareness through events such as World Heart Day and other Health days.
- ♥ Sharing learnings and best practice in CVD prevention and reduction.
- ♥ Attending and speaking at conferences and meetings regarding CVD prevention and treatment in Africa.
- ♥ Raising funds for and implementing pertinent CVD research or programmes in chosen African countries.

