



Building towards a decolonised leadership programme for Health Equity: The Tekano journey

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Background

In 2016, the Atlantic Philanthropies (AP) established seven global Atlantic Fellows programmes of lifelong communities of health equity leaders. From 2017, Tekano Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity in South Africa was co-created and led by majority Black South African women who are public health leaders. Unlike the other Atlantic Fellows programmes based in academic institutions, Tekano was established as a non-profit organization. This was to ensure non-alignment to the neoliberal politics of academia and to facilitate access for those previously disadvantaged. Here we reflect on Tekano’s journey of developing a health equity leadership programme informed by decolonial, Pan-Africanist and feminist principles.

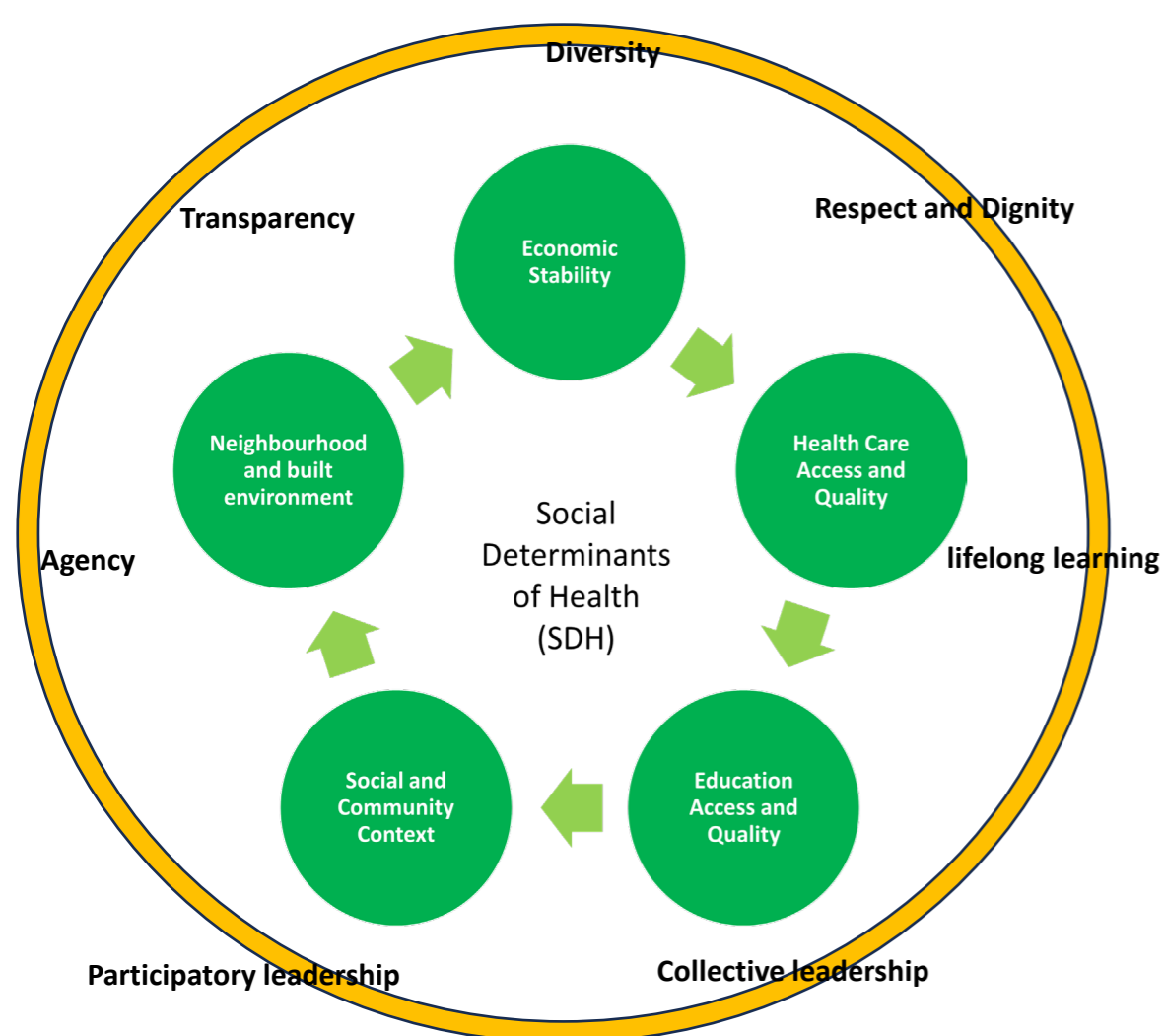
Methods

This is a case study of Tekano’s development where participatory, iterative approaches to programme design, monitoring, evaluation and learning were used.

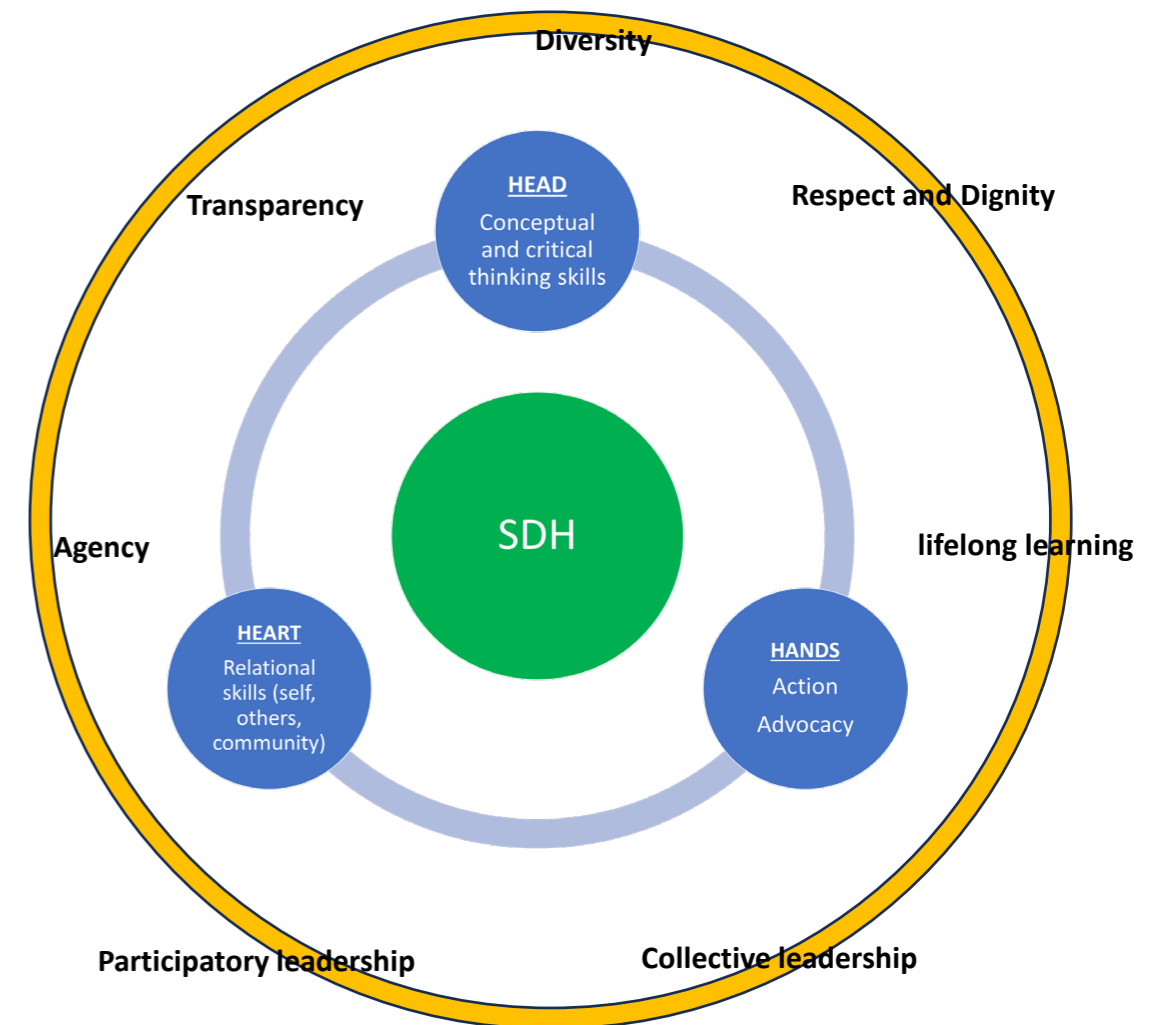
Results

Since 2017; Tekano has graduated five cohorts of 75 fellows, aiming to advance health equity in South Africa. Fellows are demographically representative, diverse in religion, political affiliations, organisations, disciplines and ways of seeing and being. The Tekano journey has included four phases.

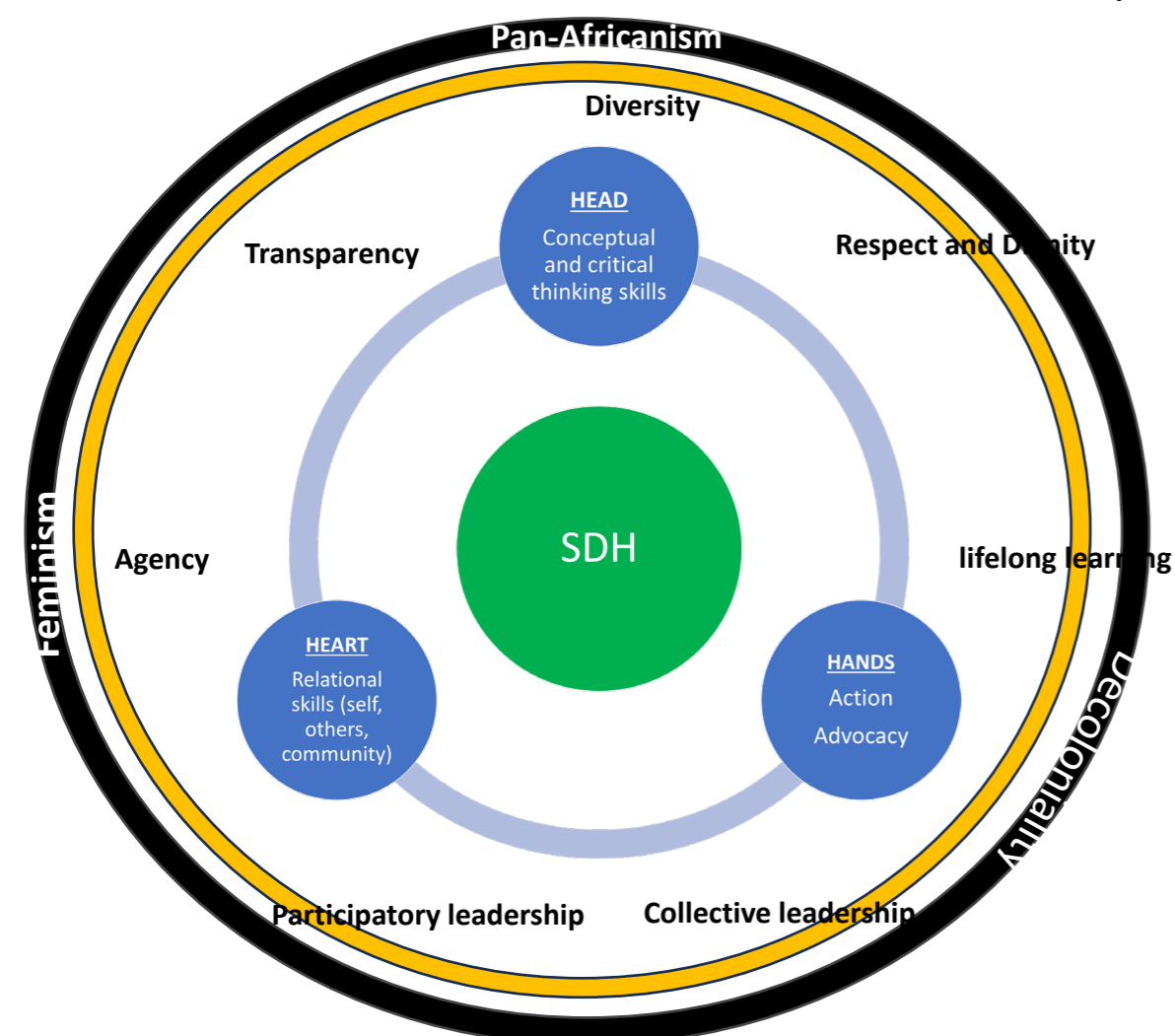
PHASE 1: Values based, apolitical programme on SDH



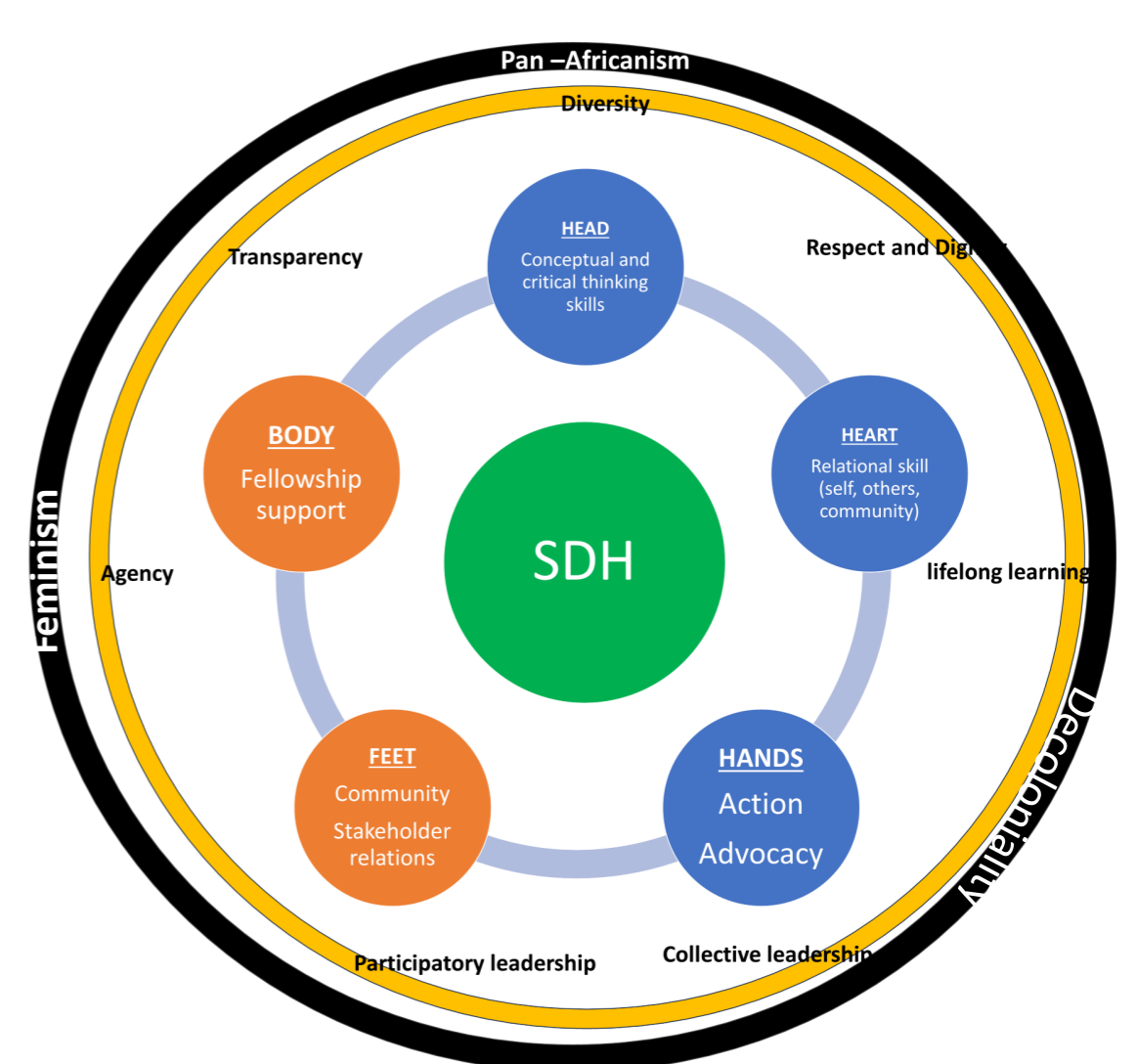
PHASE 2: Plus Head, Heart and Hands



PHASE 3: Plus Pan- Africanism, Feminism, Decoloniality



PHASE 4: Plus Fellowship support, Stakeholder Management



Conclusion

The Tekano Fellowship provides useful insights from efforts to develop a leadership programme for health equity change makers who are legitimate knowledge holders and can influence change in their communities and globally.