On Tuesday 31 January 2017, during the African Union Summit, Heads of State from across Africa endorsed the Addis Declaration on Immunization (ADI), a historic and timely pledge to ensure that everyone in Africa receives the full benefits of immunization.

Immunization saves 2-3 million lives each year.

However, 19.9 million children did not receive routine life-saving vaccinations in 2017.

And over 1.5 million children die annually from diseases that can be prevented by vaccination.

**WHAT IS ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION?**

Routine immunization is the sustainable, reliable and timely interaction between the vaccine, those who deliver it and those who receive it to ensure every person is fully immunized against vaccine preventable diseases.

**IMMUNIZATION IN AFRICA**

In Africa, 1 out of 5 children did not receive basic, lifesaving immunization like DTP3.

Despite the considerable efforts made to increase immunization coverage for the past decade on the continent, demand for routine immunization is still challenged.

Most African countries will not reach their Sustainable Development Goals while children remain at risk of outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases and threats to their lives.

On Tuesday 31 January 2017, during the African Union Summit, Heads of State from across Africa endorsed the Addis Declaration on Immunization (ADI), a historic and timely pledge to ensure that everyone in Africa receives the full benefits of immunization.

Read the Roadmap.
The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) was created with the sole purpose of improving child health in the poorest countries by extending the reach of the EPI.

**THE EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION AT GLANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>The World Health Organization (WHO) initiated the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) with the objective to vaccinate children throughout the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>The WHO established a standardized vaccination schedule for the original EPI vaccines: Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP), oral polio and measles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) was created with the sole purpose of improving child health in the poorest countries by extending the reach of the EPI.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gavi is a global Vaccine Alliance, which brings together public and private sectors with the shared goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries. Since 2000, Gavi support has contributed to the immunization of more than 700 million children.

**OUR WORK**

By taking advantage of the international support currently offered in routine immunization and the introduction of new vaccines, governments can use immunization models to improve management, planning, forecasting, evaluation, inventory control, cold-chain systems, community outreach, provider training, and patient outreach. These management and skill-building tools can positively impact overall health services and make resources available for other areas of health care.

Speak Up Africa recognizes that these major changes won't happen without the endorsement and engagement of African political leaders, as well as engagement from the beneficiaries for whom it impacts the most. Therefore, we work both at ground level and highest political levels to ensure that individual and collective actions will join together with political actions to create long-lasting impact.

Demand for routine immunization must be fueled by a dialogue with all sectors to form the blueprints for an efficient immunization program, an equitable access to life saving vaccines, an increased immunization coverage and finally a sustainable health system.

**KEY SUCCESS DRIVERS**

- **Political engagement**
  
  Increase overall political engagement to immunization.
  
- **Country engagement**
  
  Create an enabling environment at national level for increased prioritization of immunization.
  
- **Civil society engagement**
  
  Build the capacity of civil society organizations.

Headquartered in Dakar, Senegal, Speak Up Africa is a Policy and Advocacy Action Tank dedicated to catalyzing leadership, enabling policy change, and increasing awareness for sustainable development in Africa.

Through our platforms and relationships and with the help of our partners, we ensure that policy makers meet implementers; that solutions are showcased and that every sector – from individual citizens and civil society groups to global donors and business leaders – contributes critically to the dialogue and strives to form the blueprints for concrete action for public health and sustainable development.