

# Impact Report



SpeakUpAfrica.



# 10 YEARS OF IMPACT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

## A note from our founder

Dear friends,

As we reflect on another challenging year, I am amazed by the commitment and passion shown across the global health community.

As an organization, 2021 was a special year for Speak Up Africa as we celebrated our 10th anniversary. Since 2011, we have been working to catalyze leadership, enable policy change, and increase awareness for sustainable development in Africa through advocacy and strategic communication. Across the continent, we have worked with civil society, artists, sports leaders and the media to influence public health policies and drive national and regional actions toward promoting global health, research and development, gender equality, and encouraging scientific innovations as part of public discourse in Africa.

**2021 was a special year for Speak Up Africa as we celebrated our 10th anniversary.**

During 2021, we continued to protect communities across Africa through our work on malaria, neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), sanitation and immunization. We also championed African research and development, helped strengthen capacity for civil society organizations and pushed for gender equality.

Early this year, we launched the African Voices of Science Initiative, in collaboration with established scientists, researchers and health experts to generate an open public discourse on key health challenges and solutions across the continent. By amplifying credible voices across the media, we were able to reinforce the importance of increased investment in research and development, at a time when misinformation around the pandemic was rife.

We also celebrated World NTD Day, supported the launch of the World Health Organization's 2021 NTD Roadmap, and launched the March to Kigali Campaign to galvanize action against NTDs and malaria in the lead up to the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs. The Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative continued to gather pace, while we formed important partnerships to mark World Malaria Day.

We continued championing access to safely managed sanitation in Africa, working closely with the government of Senegal on the roll-out of the new African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG), which will help Senegal and other countries develop sustainable and inclusive sanitation policies suitable to their needs, while also engaging with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

When the Generation Equality Forum took place in June, we knew we had to support the vital discussions on gender equality on the African continent. During the Forum, we were extremely proud to launch the Voix EssentiELLES Initiative to engage women and girls in the decision-making process for health policies and programs.

I would like to thank each and every one of our team and Board members, partners and champions for their unwavering support, and for the contribution they have made to improving the lives of communities across the continent. Thanks to these important partnerships, we propelled African governments to take decisive action and uphold their public commitments for sustainable development.

As we enter a new decade of impact, we are excited and ready to continue our mission. With important events that will define future progress for the continent such as the World Water Forum taking place in Dakar in March, and the next Forum Galien Afrique in December, there is much to be done. We hope that you all continue to join us in our journey to drive real change to improve the lives of millions across Africa.

# 10 YEARS OF DRIVING IMPACT

## IN 10 YEARS, WE HAVE

**5** core areas of work, including: Malaria, Neglected Tropical Diseases, Sanitation, Immunization, and Global Health Research and Development.

**20** countries in Africa joined the 'Zero Malaria Starts with Me' movement, initially launched in 2014.

**3** countries are implementing the 'Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative' showcasing strong private sector engagement.

**36** civil society organizations mobilized across four countries.

**100** journalists with strengthened capacity and expertise to advocate for sustainable development in Africa through media coalitions and partnerships.

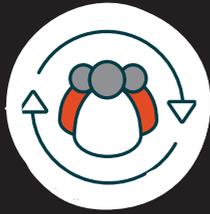
**600** people mobilized through the No to NTDs network, including parliamentarians, mayors and community leaders.

**100** influencers and champions engaged to reform public health and sustainable development.



# OUR VALUES

I



## **Inclusiveness**

We believe that all stakeholders must be engaged in the dialogue of change in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

D



## **Diligence**

We are a team of energetic and industrious individuals dedicated to contributing meaningfully to the development of Africa.

E



## **Excellence**

We are goal-focused individuals with specialized expertise and complementary skills who collaborate, innovate and produce consistently superior results.

A



## **Accountability**

It is our responsibility to ensure that us Africans are leading on the development issues that impact our continent.

S



## **Sustainability**

We ensure sustainability of programs by embedding them within the country's national strategies and plans.

# WHO WE ARE



**Speak Up Africa** is a hub of experienced communications and advocacy experts connected to critical global policy movers and decision makers. At Speak Up Africa, we are focused on delivering awareness campaigns and advocacy for public health. From policy change to movement building and community engagement, we work to inspire action around pressing sustainable development issues.

Speak Up Africa fosters multi-sectoral involvement in public health by creating and strengthening coalitions regrouping countries' main constituencies including government, financial partners, implementing partners, private sector representatives and communities. We provide platforms for partners including CSOs to consult and collaborate to maximize their efforts, particularly around the need to increase sustainable funding for critical health and sanitation programs.

## WHY SPEAK UP AFRICA



Speak Up Africa is a home-grown African solution with its finger on the pulse of critical issues.



We represent and amplify African voices, facilitating win-win partnerships with an ability and capacity to convene multiple high-level stakeholders and policy makers to ensure commitment and accountability.



We are innovative and adaptable enablers with demonstrated expertise in health & sustainable development.



We offer extensive competence in developing and implementing scalable programs across multiple countries.



We build the capacity of African organizations and provide access to technical expertise and resources.

# OUR TEAM AND ADVISORS



Actions SPEAK louder than words. Always UPward and onward, surrounded by the most inspiring and dynamic team. For and by AFRICAns.

**Maelle Ba**  
*Strategic Communications Manager*



To work at Speak Up Africa is to evolve in a team of African leaders committed to the development of their living environment.

**Seynabou Diagne**  
*Finance Manager*



Working with Speak Up Africa represents for me the identification and support of a national institution with a regional vocation for more efficiency and effectiveness for the sustainable achievement of universal health coverage in Africa.

**Maimouna Diop Ly**  
*Senior Advisor*



Working for Speak Up Africa allows me to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through the establishment of partnerships with civil society organizations on issues related to the public health and well-being of African populations.

**Assiétou Diop Kamara**  
*Policy and Research Manager*



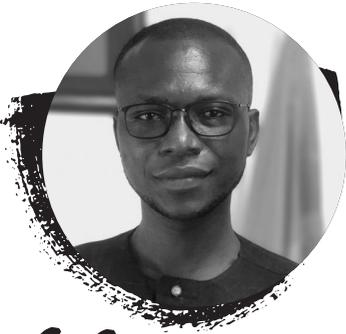
It is the sum of our actions, day after day, that creates a lasting impact on the communities we care about.

**Courani Diarra**  
*Strategic Communications Officer*



Growing up in an environment where all dignified living conditions were not met, I am passionate about the development of the African continent and joining the SUA allows me every day to support this goal.

**Yaye Sophietou Diop**  
*Advocacy Manager*



I am in an inclusive family churning out verifiable information for policy change.

**Kamal Deen Habib**  
Advocacy Officer



By us, for us, with us. It is an honor.

**Carina E. Ndiaye**  
Director of Strategic Operations



Being part of the Speak Up Africa team is a way for me to contribute to the development of my continent. Through my work, I contribute to creating an Africa where every member of society, especially women are more fulfilled, productive and healthy.

**Aida Kabo**  
Program Officer



Inspired everyday by my colleagues and partners in our journey towards a healthier and prosperous Africa.

**Yacine Djibo**  
Executive Director and Founder



It is exciting for me to work at Speak Up Africa, I see myself as a hummingbird working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 (good health and well-being), 5 (gender equality) and 6 (clean water and sanitation).

**Frederic Doumde**  
Chad EPI Focal Point



I love working at Speak Up Africa because my daily work contributes to ensuring that every little African girl and boy can aspire to big dreams in a healthy environment.

**Roxane Fian**  
Program Associate



Working at Speak Up Africa means being on the front lines every day for one goal: to improve the living conditions of the African people.

**Anta Gaye**  
Office Manager



Improving the health of millions of Africans, one analysis at a time.  
**Assiatou Kama Niang**  
*Policy and Research Manager*



At Speak Up Africa, I live the culture of excellence and the ability to always meet challenges!  
**Anta Mbodj**  
*Office Manager*



Speak Up Africa provides a cosmopolitan multicultural work environment held together by the passion for social justice in health.  
**David Mulabi**  
*Advocacy Officer*



An infinite diversity united for one goal.  
**Bara Mbaye**  
*Creative Content Manager*



I have always been aware of the challenges that we Africans will have to face for an Africa free of all its ills, and my work with Speak Up Africa makes me feel like I am part of a collective effort to achieve this.  
**Mame Cheikh Mbaye**  
*Graphic Designer*



Proud to work with a group of talented individuals to transform the systems that shape our very lives. As a testament to our collective power, let's work to build the Africa we want to live in now.  
**Fara Ndiaye**  
*Deputy Executive Director*



Speak Up Africa, a daily challenge with an extraordinary team!  
**Marieme Ndiaye**  
*Administrative Assistant*



At Speak Up Africa, we are bound by the difficulties we face in our work, but also by its rewarding aspects. It is with passion that I have been working for the past few years on international projects with high impact to improve the well-being of communities.  
**Franz Okey**  
*National Coordinator*



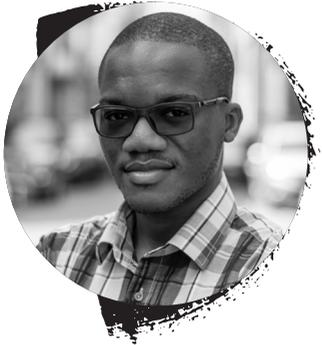
I am proud to be part of this impactful team, because through Speak Up Africa, I join my voice to impactful ones to contribute to sustainable development.  
**Roukiattou Ouedraogo**  
*National Coordinator*



It is an honor to be part of such a human adventure and to contribute to improving the lives of communities and future generations.  
**Ali Sidikou**  
*Director of Finance*



Working at Speak Up Africa, particularly on private sector engagement, allows me to contribute to the ownership of public health and sustainable development issues at the level of private actors. Together we can build the Africa we want!  
**Marieme Sy**  
*Advocacy Officer*



To work at Speak Up Africa is to embark on a professional and human adventure with the impact of African leadership on sustainable development on the horizon.  
**Aziz Thioye**  
*Accounting and Administrative Assistant*



Tackling critical public health issues and driving the development agenda in Africa must be led by African organizations and leaders: to me, Speak Up Africa represents this ideal and it's a joy to contribute, learn and grow alongside my passionate and inspiring colleagues.  
**James Wallen**  
*Malaria Programs Coordinator*



It is so satisfying after a long, busy day of emergencies and calls to turn off the computer and know that I have made a significant impact on the lives of communities, that is the feeling that Speak Up Africa provides on a daily basis.  
**Papa Momar Toure**  
*Program Officer*



Through my creativity, I hope to improve the living conditions of everyone by translating into images the content defined in the programs.  
**Angelo Zogo**  
*Graphic Designer*

# RECOGNIZING LEADERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Alongside our 10-year anniversary celebrations, we recognized remarkable individuals who have significantly contributed to improving sustainable development across Africa through our 2021 Leadership Award. The award ceremony was attended by long-standing partners including Professor Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Minister of State for Senegal; Rajah Sy, Director of Special Olympics Senegal; and Professor Ndioro Ndiaye, Former Minister of Women and Family of Senegal and Coordinator of the Francophone Network for Gender Equality. Awards were presented by the Chair of the Board of Directors for Speak Up Africa, Yacine Barro, and Board Directors Magatte Diop and Adrien Diouf.

This year's recipients included:



**DR. ODRY AGBESSI,**  
**President of Via Me in Bénin**

A long-standing champion of health awarded for her work to mobilize young people and civil society through her dedicated association Via Me in Benin.

*"Africa's civil society organizations are filled with very dynamic young people who are powerful agents of change, and I am proud of the Via Me Association's role alongside other CSOs partners in raising their voices. Campaigns like March to Kigali are critical for advocating for greater action against issues such as NTDs and malaria, and I look forward to continuing this partnership as we lead up to the Kigali Summit in 2022."*



**HAROUNA DRABO,**  
**Journalist in Burkina Faso**

An engaged journalist who devotes his professional life to raising public awareness on pressing health issues.

*"Speak Up Africa's expertise has greatly supported me with my reporting in Burkina Faso. It is critical that citizens know how to protect themselves and their loved ones from NTDs. These diseases increase the socio-economic vulnerability of populations. I am glad that I can utilize my skills to raise this much needed awareness."*



**SARAH DIOUF,**  
**Founder and Creative Director of Senegalese fashion label Tongoro**

As one of the continent's creative female leaders, Sarah joined the African LeadHERS initiative through a fashion show dedicated to gender equality

during the historic Generation Equality Forum.

*"Whether it has been battling COVID-19, or championing for greater gender equality, it has been a pleasure to collaborate with Speak Up Africa and use my platform for good. Fashion has the power to bring people together, and I am grateful to have been recognized by Speak Up Africa for my contribution."*



**PROFESSOR SAMBA SOW,**

**Director of the Centre of Vaccine Development, Mali**  
Recognized for his commitment to championing research and development in Africa and generating an open public discourse on key

health challenges and solutions. Pr. Sow has carried out life-saving research into vaccines and has played an important role in tackling misinformation surrounding the pandemic and vaccine roll-out.

*"The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that the only way that we can address most of our health issues globally is through collaboration and equal partnerships. I am thrilled to work with organizations such as Speak Up Africa and share my expertise with Africans on how to prevent and treat infectious disease."*



**SERIGNE MBAYE THIAM,**  
**Minister of Water and Sanitation Senegal**

Minister Thiam is deeply committed to the 2030 Agenda to provide access to safely managed sanitation for all, rolling out the new African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG) to support Senegal and other countries develop sustainable and inclusive sanitation policies suitable to their needs and realities.

*"Improving sanitation in Africa is one of our continent's greatest, but most important, challenges. It is a wonderful honor to receive Speak Up Africa's Leadership Award this year, and we look forward to pursuing the necessary efforts to achieve our sanitation goals, alongside all the sector's key stakeholders. Together, we can achieve universal access to sanitation by 2030."*



**KHALILOU FADIGA,**  
 Roving Ambassador  
 to the Republic of  
 Senegal and former  
 international football  
 player was also in  
 attendance as one of  
 Speak Up Africa's long-  
 standing champions.

*"Speak Up Africa is a shining example of African hope and success, and I am proud to lend my voice in support of their important mission."*



## WHERE OUR IMPACT REACHES

With our strategic location in Dakar, Senegal, our experienced team and our ability to fully operate in French and English, we are uniquely placed to bring together civil society organizations, private sector, governmental and regional institutions across the continent. Working across Africa, we are committed to enabling coordinated actions to improve health and development.

For our work to have significant impact, it is critical that we adopt an integrated approach. This means utilizing our skills and expertise across issue areas, since so many communities suffer from multiple threats to their health. By investing and supporting the growth of human capital, we hope to increase innovation, social well-being, gender equality, increased productivity, improved rates of participation, all of which contribute to economic growth.

We work across multiple countries in Africa:

- Driving awareness, commitment and action through champions, media and partner convenings.
- Strengthening in-country capacity by providing countries (national and local governments, civil society organizations, private sectors, media and partners) with the technical support and resources needed to strengthen their impact.
- Working with regional institutions such as the African Union to ensure that our key issues are prioritized by our leaders and that they are held accountable to their commitments.

### SENEGAL

Voix essentiELLES  
 Golden Sludge  
 Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative  
 March to Kigali  
 Stay Safe Africa  
 African Voices of Science  
 Lines of Impact

### BURKINA FASO

Voix EssentiELLES  
 Zero Malaria Business  
 Leadership Initiative  
 No to NTDs  
 Lines of Impact

### NIGER

Golden Sludge  
 March to Kigali  
 No to NTDs  
 Lines of Impact

### CHAD

Stay Safe Africa

### UGANDA

Lines of Impact

### MALI

African Voices  
 of Science

### NIGERIA

African Voices  
 of Science  
 Lines of Impact

### IVORY COAST

Voix EssentiELLES

### KENYA

African Voices  
 of Science

### SOUTH AFRICA

African Voices  
 of Science

### ACROSS THE CONTINENT

Africa Young Innovators  
 For Health Award, African  
 LeadHERs and Zero  
 Malaria Starts with Me



### SIERRA LEONE

March to Kigali

### GUINEA

No to NTDs  
 March to Kigali  
 Lines of Impact

### GHANA

Lines of Impact

### BENIN

Zero Malaria Business  
 Leadership Initiative  
 March to Kigali  
 Lines of Impact

# 2021 OUR IMPACT



**3** 3 countries launched the March to Kigali, mobilizing critical action against malaria and NTDs

**18** 18 leading African scientists championed research and development on the continent

**69** 69 civil society organizations joined forces across Africa to advocate for the end malaria and neglected tropical diseases

**150** 150 signatures of commitment were obtained in support to the March to Kigali campaign to galvanize action against NTDs and malaria in the lead up to the Kigali Summit

**16** 16 business leaders participated in the Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative, driving private sector engagement in the fight against malaria

**67** 67 journalists reported on sustainable development issues.

**153** 153 media articles about our initiatives and areas of focus were produced by journalists

**77** 77 partners and champions supported our work on malaria, NTDs, sanitation, research and development and gender equality

**760 000** 760,000 people were reached with our messages on social media



# 2021 OUR PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES AND CAMPAIGNS



AFRICAN HEALTH INNOVATION  
AND RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

IMMUNIZATION

GENDER EQUALITY

NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

MALARIA

AN INTEGRATED  
APPROACH  
TO FIGHTING MALARIA  
AND NTDS

SANITATION

WORKING ON OUR  
COLLECTIVE IMPACT



# AFRICAN HEALTH INNOVATION AND RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT



## INFORMATION IS A VITAL RESOURCE, AND WHEN FIGHTING PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES, THE NEED FOR ACCURATE INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL.

To promote access to reliable evidence and information, local experts must be ready, available and prepared to speak credibly in ways that resonate locally.

We saw that significant misinformation around the research and development of new tools, from vaccines and therapeutics to diagnostics and disease surveillance, was hampering Africa's ability to proactively shape its research agenda. Moreover, misinformation could potentially slow the development and delivery of innovation – impeding clinical trial recruitment and the acceptance and uptake of new tools and measures to prevent, treat and diagnose diseases that holds back the development of our continent. In these times, amplifying credible voices is critical to shift the narrative, which is why in 2021 we sought to engage with respected and renowned scientists and champion innovation through the implementation of the African Young Innovators for Health Award program and the launch of the Women's Innovators Incubator.

## OUR IMPACT

**23** 23 pieces of media coverage secured, championing African-led R&D through the African Voices of Science initiative

**21,350** 21,350 people reached with messages on social media via #AfricanVoicesofScience

**18** 18 leading African scientists and public health experts shared critical health information, from the development of COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and diagnostics to emerging new research in infectious diseases

**300** 300 applications received for the African Young Innovators Award, encouraging African talent, with a total of USD\$75,000 in prizes awarded to winners

Launched the Women's Innovators Incubator in partnership with IFPMA to address gaps in female-led innovation.

# FEATURED INITIATIVES

## AFRICAN VOICES OF SCIENCE

Information is a vital resource during an emergency. Yet, COVID-19 has sparked significant fear and misinformation across the world. We launched our African Voices of Science initiative to generate an open public discourse on key health challenges and solutions across the continent. By amplifying credible voices who can speak for research and development in media outlets such as BBC Afrique and Jeune Afrique, we were able to build trust in health innovation and share vital scientific information with African communities.

Throughout the year, we were privileged to work with nine esteemed scientists:



**PR. CAROL-ANN BENN**

Fellow of the College of Surgeons of South Africa



**PR. CLAUDIA GRAY**

Paediatrician and Allergy specialist  
Professor Carol-Ann Benn, Fellow of the College of Surgeons of South Africa



**Dr. CLEMENT MESEKO**

Veterinary Research Officer at the National Veterinary Research Institute, Nigeria



**PR. AWA MARIE COLL-SECK**

Minister of State to the President of Senegal and Chair of the Scientific Committee for the Galien Forum Africa



**PR. CHRISTIAN T. HAPPI**, Director of the African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases



**THUMBI MWANGI**

Infectious Diseases Epidemiologist



**PR. GLENDA GRAY**

President and CEO of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)



**Dr. NEEMA KASEJE**

Paediatric Surgeon & Public Health Specialist, Surgical Systems Research Group, Kisumu, Kenya



**PR. SAMBA SOW**

Director-General of the Center for Vaccine Development in Mali, former Minister of Health of Mali



By amplifying their voices in media outlets, we were able to highlight accurate and insightful information on topics ranging from COVID-19 vaccine trials to emerging new research in infectious diseases.

## AFRICAN YOUNG INNOVATORS FOR HEALTH AWARD

In September, we were thrilled to announce the winners of our flagship program with the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA), focusing on supporting pioneering young health entrepreneurs across Africa. We received over 300 applications and following hard deliberations by our esteemed jury – including Dr Abdourahmane Diallo, CEO of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria; Pape Amadou, President and Founder of the Baobab Institute; Dr. Moredreck Chibi, Regional Innovation Advisor at WHO AFRO; and many more – we awarded three winners: Conrad Tankou, CEO, GIC Space (Cameroon); John Mwangi, CEO, Daktari Media (Kenya) and Imodoye Abioro, CEO, Healthbotics (Nigeria). These remarkable innovators will now benefit from financial support, a business mentorship program, media training, and expert advice on Intellectual Property protection where relevant, as well as access to a network of supporters and partners working across digital, healthcare, and media.



### DR CONRAD TANKOU

**First prize winner** of our Africa Young Innovators for Health Award, Dr Tankou, aims to reduce breast and cervical cancer death rates in Africa's underserved communities and rural settings that generally lack access to cancer care services through GIC Space' flagship product GICMED. By training health workers in rural and peri-urban health facilities to use its proprietary tech, including smartphone digital microscopy and colposcopy systems, and a telemedicine platform, women living even in the most remote areas are able to get screened and diagnosed for these cancers at the point of care by medical specialists.

*"It is an honour to receive the first-ever Africa Young Innovators for Health Award. This is a true endorsement of our accomplishments and testament to our goal – improving access to screening and diagnosis of breast and cervical cancers for women, even in the most remote areas. With the Award's financial and business mentorship support, we can upgrade our technologies and start scaling our solution much quicker by investing in manufacturing capabilities and building more local partnerships".*



### JOHN MWANGI

**Second prize winner**, CEO of Daktari Media Africa. Daktari Online, a product of Daktari Media Africa, is an online medical resource platform that allows the health professional community to interact, educate themselves, publish research articles, attend training and earn Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points. Founded by John Mwangi, a computer scientist, Daktari Online currently supports the learning objectives of over 9,000 Kenyan health professionals for assessment and renewal of their licenses, providing relevant content created by experts in an easy-to-access format and helping health care providers collect evidence of their learning.



### IMODOYE ABIORO

**Third prize winner**, CEO of Healthbotics Limited. Through its Mediverse product, Healthbotics uses artificial intelligence to power electronic medical record systems that allow healthcare professionals to enter and retrieve patient records using voice recognition, with or without internet access, on any device. Mediverse provides doctors with a virtual digital assistant that captures and records critical clinical data, prescriptions, treatment analyses and prognostic assessment while providing patient care.

## WOMEN INNOVATORS INCUBATOR

Whilst we received many applications for the African Young Innovators for Health Award, only 21% of the submissions were from women. To address this imbalance, IFPMA and Speak Up Africa developed the Women Innovators Incubator, an initiative aimed at addressing the gender imbalance that exists in Africa's health innovation landscape. Through this project, three female participants from the African Young Innovators for Health Award will benefit from financial support, mentorship, media training and expert advice. Participants include Angella Kyomugisha, Co-CEO, Kaaro Health, Uganda; Nuriat Nambogo, Team Lead, MobiCare, Uganda; and Marie Chantal Umunyana, Founder and Managing Director, Umubyeyi, Rwanda.



**ANGELLA KYOMUGISHA**  
**Co-CEO, Kaaro Health, Uganda**

Angella Kyomugisha is a 29-year-old Ugandan, Co-CEO & Chief Financial Officer of Kaaro Health Uganda Limited. She is a formal Medical Doctor. Kaaro Health uses simple mobile technologies to bring affordable, high-quality healthcare to every village in Africa. They deploy telehealth-enabled container clinics in villages that otherwise have no clinic within a 25-kilometer radius. Their work ensures that people have access to qualified healthcare professionals as well as critical equipment.



**NURIAT NAMBOGO**  
**Team Lead, MobiCare, Uganda**

Nuriat oversees the entire development and implementation of the project. MobiCare is a smartphone mobile based application that helps to link patients to health workers and enables convenient appointment scheduling. Health workers licensed to practice and attached to private health facilities are voluntarily requested to register with MobiCare.



**MARIE CHANTAL UMUNYANA**  
**Founder and Managing Director, Umubyeyi, Rwanda**

Marie Chantal Umunyana, is a 26-year-old medical student, Founder and Managing Director at Umubyeyi. Umubyeyi intends to provide evidence-based information on maternal & child wellbeing and parenting. It is a digital health initiative for youth, young couples, pregnant women, and young mothers. It aims to make health information accessible by applying a comprehensive approach in improving maternal and child wellbeing using technology tools.

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## FORUM GALIEN AFRICA

On the sidelines of the 4th Galien Forum Africa, held in December in Dakar, a joint declaration was published by prominent scientist leaders involved in the African Voices of Science initiative, calling for increased regional scientific cooperation and investment in healthcare research, in response to a rise in misinformation on the continent. The declaration comes as 615 million Africans still lack sufficient access to quality healthcare. Africa accounts for almost half of global deaths from communicable diseases, but sub-Saharan Africa only represents around 1% of the world's scientific output. Also during the Forum, Speak Up Africa launched the Women Innovators Incubator, and also hosted two panels during the Youth Forum on the topic of 'youth and global health security', including with the three winners of the Africa Young Innovators Award for Health to magnify the place of African innovation in global health security and highlight the innovative solutions developed by young people to improve the living conditions of African populations.

*"To successfully address Africa's health crisis, it is critical we invest in the future, and education is at the cornerstone of this goal. We must build the next generation of scientists and ensure we promote neglected communities, most notably women, to enable representation at all levels. African leaders must increase investment in teaching and education, to elevate the future generation of scientists, doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals."*

# IMMUNIZATON

## VACCINES HAVE GREATLY REDUCED THE BURDEN OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES WORLDWIDE.

Routine immunization is one of the most successful and cost-effective public health interventions, preventing 2-3 million deaths per year. Yet, an additional 1.5 million deaths could be avoided if global vaccination coverage improves.

At Speak Up Africa, improving access to vaccines among the most vulnerable has underpinned our strategy to tackle disease in Africa. As a result of lower vaccination rates in 2021, 228 million people (mostly children), have been at risk for vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, yellow fever, and polio. In addition to higher mortality rates, these vaccine-preventable diseases risk adding pressure to countries' health systems, resources and capacity. The response to COVID-19 offers a unique opportunity to create a more equitable and sustainable approach to immunization and reach missed communities with essential services. This is why this year, we pivoted our Stay Safe Africa campaign to focus on increasing immunization coverage levels in Africa, to protect communities from existing and emerging threats.



## OUR IMPACT

**10** 10 champions engaged to spread health messages during COVID-19 through Stay Safe Africa campaign

**5** Engaged 5 champions in our target countries of Senegal and Chad to raise the profile of routine immunization

**30+** Received commitments from 30+ civil society organizations in Chad to commit to COVID-19 vaccinations

**400,000** Informed 400,000 people via SMS and 240,000 Facebook users in Chad on the importance of immunization

**19,2** Reached 19.2 million people through 1,015 #StaySafeAfrica social media posts

**7** Highlighted the importance of immunization through 7 pieces of media coverage in top tier media including Jeune Afrique, BBC Africa and Telesud

**6** Chief Doctors, six (6) community relays and two (2) religious leaders) in the promotion of routine/covid immunization at the national level and in the African Region

Formalization of the EPI Partners' consultation framework on communication and advocacy through memorandum N°000661 of May 4, 2021 from the Prevention/MSAS Directorate;

Dissemination of the EPI Institutional Video on a national scale;

National coverage of the Covid-19 communication campaign in partnership with the Union of Community Radios of Senegal (URAC);

**10** Production of 10 press kits with the journalists reporters.

# FEATURED INITIATIVES

## • STAY SAFE AFRICA

As we entered 2021, we reframed the focus of our Stay Safe Africa campaign to encourage communities to protect themselves from coronavirus by taking the COVID-19 vaccine. We developed thought leadership pieces and infographics to share accurate information about the vaccine, and how this was proven to protect from the virus.

## • COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT IN CHAD

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, Speak Up Africa provided technical assistance to support communications around the deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine in Chad. This involved managing the spread of misinformation through a risk communication strategy, in collaboration with the national subcommittee in charge of social mobilization. In addition, we supported on media and social media an SMS campaign to encourage populations to get vaccinated.

## • PRODUCTION OF ARTICLES ON IMMUNIZATION AGAINST COVID-19 IN SENEGAL

To increase media coverage of both routine and Covid-19 immunization in Senegal, several journalists wrote articles on different topics to raise awareness on the importance of immunization, support the ongoing immunization campaign and counter misinformation in the national print and radio media.

*“Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some parents were reluctant to vaccinate their children out of fear. A very risky decision. Because, according to Ahmet Diop, a community actor in the region of Thiès, any child can be exposed to these infections.”*  
*Viviane Diatta, « Covid-19 complicates everything.”*

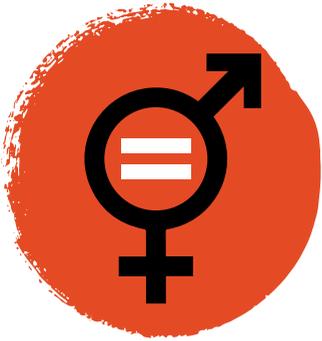
l'Enquête N° 3119



*«At Speak Up Africa, guaranteeing access to vaccines for all, with particular emphasis on young children and the most vulnerable, remains a key objective. Still today, 19.9 million children do not have access to essential vaccines they need to ensure a happy and healthy future. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, our collective commitments and actions to boost access to immunization have never been more urgent. Despite the adverse effects of the pandemic, we have the opportunity to restore and maintain resilient and sustainable immunization systems that deliver real change for people's lives, putting the world firmly on course to reach Sustainable Development Goal 3.»*

Fara Ndiaye, Deputy Director at Speak Up Africa

# GENDER EQUALITY



**26 YEARS AFTER THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, TOO LITTLE HAS CHANGED IN THE FIGHT FOR GENDER EQUALITY.**

At the current pace, gender gaps will potentially take 121.7 years to close in Sub-Saharan Africa and it is estimated that women will not achieve pay or leadership equity with men for another 135.6 years.

Across the continent, women also disproportionately suffer from public health issues such as malaria and poor sanitation. As a female-led organization, we feel passionately about the issue of gender equality. During the Generation Equality Forum, we reaffirmed our commitment to gender equality and worked with partners and champions across the continent on exciting and impactful initiatives to support women and girls in all of their diversity participate meaningfully in health programs.

## OUR IMPACT

**24** 24 CSOs from Senegal, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire selected to participate in the Voix EssentiELLES initiative

**7** 7 champions engaged on the need for greater decision-making processes for women and girls

**150** 150 people attended our Generation Equality Forum events, driving conversation around gender equality across the continent

**5** 5 pieces of media coverage generated, with a feature piece in New African Woman

**30** 30 women and 10 community and religious leaders engaged in new campaign 'Menstrual Hygiene Management: from taboo to economic empowerment'

# FEATURED INITIATIVES

## • VOIX ESSENTIELLES

In July, we were thrilled to launch the Voix EssentiELLES initiative, with the aim to elevate women and girls' voices, by meaningfully engaging them in decision-making processes and spaces that influence health policies and programs. Launched on the sidelines of the Generation Equality Forum and working in partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Fondation CHANEL, Voix EssentiELLES bolsters participation of women and girls in community-based organizations in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal through a dedicated fund, a leadership and capacity strengthening program.

Training modules, tailored to the needs of the selected organizations based on a capacity assessment as well as each country's national context, will be dispensed through the *University of ExcELLEnce* in the three countries. Speak Up Africa also organized key stakeholders' consultations in each country with selected women and girls' organizations, to maximize their inclusion into national coalitions and decision-making spaces and processes in their respective countries. As part of the initiative's launch, community dialogues were held in Thienaba, Senegal, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and Dabou, Cote d'Ivoire to enable us to further engage with communities.

Voix EssentiELLES directly supports Sustainable Development Goal 5 and the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalition's commitment on Feminist Movements & Leadership, which seeks to increase the meaningful participation, leadership, and decision-making power of girl, women and feminist leaders, including those who are trans, intersex and non-binary by 2026. 24 organizations have been granted with support through the fund so far, and we look forward to continuing this important work into 2022.



*"The Voix EssentiELLES initiative is about placing women on the main stage by empowering them, helping and supporting them morally, physically and financially."*

**Fatimata Mamadou Lamine Sy,**  
President of the Senegalese Association for the Future of Women and Children



*"This initiative marks a revolution in the process of implementing health development programs in Burkina Faso."*

**Stevie Reine Yameogo,**  
Vice-president of the Network of Young Ambassadors for Reproductive Health and Family Planning in Burkina Faso.



*"The Voix EssentiELLES program is a welcomed opportunity for the promotion of women's leadership in Africa and around the world. It*

*will create an environment filled with opportunities through capacity building of women according to their specific needs. It will make women more successful in society and create influential leadership to inspire, guide, encourage towards results with innovative ideas."*

**Khady Cissé,**  
Founder of the Organization for the Health of Children, Women and Women and the Family in Cote d'Ivoire

*«Sustainable development in Africa will not become a reality without the active participation of women and girls. It is crucial to have initiatives such as Voix EssentiELLES, which aim to provide a rallying point for civil society organizations and unite energies in an endogenous dynamic of reflection based on the different experiences of women at the micro and/or local level.»*

**Prof. Ndioro Ndiaye,**  
Coordinator of the Network for Gender Equality at the International Organization of La Francophonie and former Minister of Women and Family Affairs of Senegal



● **AFRICAN LEADERS**

Recognizing the importance of voice, decision-making and leadership as key elements of female empowerment, we partnered with renowned fashion label Tongoro and music artist Obree Daman to host a fashion show on the sidelines of the Generation Equality Forum to advocate for gender equality. The fashion show, called 'African LeadHERS', brought together leaders across the arts and cultural sector to inspire, enable and engage women. Meanwhile, to engage young people in the conversation, we also hosted a radio show with Senegalese broadcaster Vibe Radio, discussing issues of public health and sexual and reproductive health as part of their 'Youth talk' programme.



*«Fashion has long been recognized as a way to empower women; for many of us clothes are not simply to be worn, they are also used to make a statement. I've worked with and dressed many inspiring and strong women throughout my career, and it's a pleasure to do so in support of the Generation Equality Forum. Through this show, and the other activities taking place across Africa, we strive to improve gender equality and craft the continent's future.»*

**Sarah Diouf,**  
Founder of Tongoro



*“Women empowerment, and the inclusion of women and girls on public platforms and in leadership, is a fundamental right and critical to our development. As part of the Generation Equality Forum’s Action Coalition on economic justice and rights, I am proud to stand for increasing women’s economic empowerment. 2021 can be a landmark year in our fight for gender equality in Africa, but we must all act for equal. It’s an honor to see so many inspirational women uniting to share their voices and experiences, as the movement for gender equality gains pace across the African continent”*

**Oulimata Sarr,**  
Regional Director West and Central Africa at UN Women.

## • NO TABOO PERIODS

Since 2015, Speak Up Africa has worked on filling the knowledge gap around menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in Senegal through the No Taboo Periods campaign. To mark International Women's Day in 2021, Speak Up Africa and social enterprise KITAMBAA launched the 'Menstrual Hygiene Management: from taboo to economic empowerment' campaign, to empower women and girls in Sandiara, Senegal and urge leaders to implement public policies that account for women and girls' needs as well as menstrual health and hygiene management. Engaging Dr. Serigne Gueye Diop, Mayor of Sandiara who has been elected twice as the best mayor in Senegal, as a champion has helped increased impact at the community level. To fight absenteeism due to periods, Dr. Diop has committed to ensure girls of his community have access to reusable pads in schools. 30 women have engaged in the campaign so far, in addition to 10 community and religious leaders.

*"Today, reusable sanitary pads make our lives easier, we are freer to carry out our daily activities. No more absences from school or work. For me, who is always working on the ground I no longer have to worry about my period. I can go wherever I want."*

**Ndeye Mbodj,**  
Radio Host & Spokesperson of Etü Jiggeen Jeggem



*"Through this initiative, we strive to break the silence and bring change in beliefs and attitudes towards menstruation. We aim to support women and girls to overcome the barriers that prohibit them from managing menstruation with dignity. And that can only be done with the active participation of municipalities, local authorities as well as religious and community leaders and parents."*

**Yaye Helene Ndiaye,**  
Founder and Executive Director of Kitambaa

## • THE OUAGADOUGOU PARTNERSHIP

Originally launched in 2011, the Ouagadougou Partnership (OP) has formed successful partnerships across West Africa to double the number of modern contraceptives to 13 million by 2030. Speak Up Africa supports the coordination of the OP, hosting events and activities on the ground and coordinating partners. Thanks to efforts thus far, an additional 1.18 million women in Africa are using modern contraceptives since 2011.

The Ouagadougou Partnership is supported by a Coordination Unit (the OPCU), hosted by Speak Up Africa since April 1, 2021 and based in Dakar, Senegal to organize events, lead activities on the ground and coordinate partners in countries and donors.

*"The Coordination Unit's mandate, its team, and its operations remain unchanged as it works to further align to the ambitious vision and objectives the OP has set for itself over the past year. Items such as human resources, IT, and other administrative and support services will transition from IntraHealth International to Dakar-based Speak Up Africa. I would like to address my team and I's most sincere thanks to IntraHealth International and Speak up Africa who spared no effort to make this transition as seamless as possible, and the donors who supported this initiative."*

**Marie Ba,**  
Director, Ouagadougou Partnership Coordinating Unit



# NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES



## NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES (NTDs) ARE A GROUP OF DESTRUCTIVE AND DANGEROUS COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

Although they can be prevented and treated, they continue to cause severe disfigurement and other long-term disabilities that create obstacles to education, employment, economic growth and overall development. Over 1.5 billion people are affected by NTDs worldwide, but as their name suggests, they are often lower amongst policy makers priorities. With 39% of the global NTD burden in Africa, Speak Up Africa has set out to alleviate suffering from NTDs by galvanizing action amongst policymakers and civil society organizations. Through the No to NTDs movement we have raised awareness of the burden of NTDs and their impact on health, and we have worked closely with the Expanded Special Project for Elimination of Neglected Diseases (ESPEN) to mobilise resources and improve the use of data for decision making.

## OUR IMPACT



**16** 16 CSOs across five countries were engaged through the No to NTD movement, increasing civil society engagement in the fight to end NTDs.

Established the National Intersectoral Committee for the Control of NTDs and integrated NTD and malaria data at a national level in Senegal

Created the Multisectoral Coalition for the Control of NTDs in Niger and signed a two-year agreement with the Minister of Public Health, Population and Social Affairs of Niger, Dr. Illiassou Mainassara, for the implementation of advocacy activities with the NTD Program

**1** Supported the development of the 1st ALMA Scorecard for NTD Elimination with updated data on NTD endemicity at the national level in Guinea

Updated the National NTD Program Advocacy Plan integrating engagement activities with sanitation and malaria sectors in Guinea

Supported the integration of targeted NTD and Malaria activities of the Ministry of Public Health in Guinea

**12** 12 NTD program members were trained on advocacy and strategic communications

**7** 7 journalists reported on the issue of NTDs through our Lines of Impact program

**99,126** 99,126 people reached through #NoToNTDs on social media



# FEATURED INITIATIVES

## • WORLD NTD DAY

2021 saw the second ever World NTD Day, formally recognized as an official Awareness Day by the World Health Assembly with 350 partners signing up to celebrate hard-earned progress and taking action by saying #NotoNTDs to #EndtheNeglect and #BeatNTDs. To mark the occasion, the NTD community coordinated the lighting of more than 60 iconic landmarks in 40 cities and 24 countries in a global campaign to shine orange and violet, in a worldwide demonstration of unity in the fight against NTDs. The Monument de la Renaissance in Senegal, the Place de la Concertation in Niger, the Monument du 22 November in Guinea and the Etoile Rouge in Benin were among the many monuments worldwide to take part in the illumination.

In Senegal, Speak Up Africa teamed up with creative agency Yard, RBS Crew, the Basketball African League, Ecobank Foundation, Special Olympics and Tongoro to create a fresco on a basketball court in Ouakam, at the foot of the Monument de la Renaissance, highlighting the neglect in neglected tropical diseases, and bringing attention to these devastating diseases. Private sector organizations showed their support for the cause, with pan-African banking group Ecobank stepping up to end NTDs by raising awareness amongst its employees and clients across Francophone Africa. In addition, 13 CSOs from the No to NTDs Civil Society Network also marked World NTD day through a range of communication and advocacy campaigns, holding sessions in school, interactive broadcasts in Burkina Faso and TV debates in Niger, mobilizing hundreds of citizens.



## • LINES OF IMPACT

Through sustained and accurate reporting on these key public health issues, journalists can be powerful agents of change in the fight for a fairer, healthier and more prosperous Africa. In partnership with African journalists, we are working to increase the volume and quality of reporting on the topics of NTDs, malaria, immunization and sanitation in Africa, ensuring that these public health issues, and the people affected by

them, are at the heart of media conversation. Through a steady drumbeat of media articles and pieces, the project raises awareness and amplifies voices of people impacted across the continent. As a result, Lines of Impact plays a crucial role in holding leaders accountable to their commitments to reach our Sustainable Development Goals. Through the project, for World NTD Day 2021 these journalists produced thought provoking articles in outlets such as SciDev, Africa.com and News Ghana.

## • ENGAGING HIGH-LEVEL LEADERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

As part of the Civil Society No to NTDs network in July we conducted workshops with 17 CSO organizations in Dakar to develop action plans for the elimination of NTDs. Through this engaging workshop, we aimed to increase the capacity and effectiveness of CSOs by strengthening their knowledge of effective strategies and advocacy tools. On World Rabies Day in September, we also partnered with the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) to bring together stakeholders to discuss how we can utilise accountability mechanisms and why country ownership and community engagement are critical in the fight against NTDs.

Salomon Dopavogui, Executive Director of CSO Jeunesse-Secours in Guinea is a leading civil society voice and long-standing development champion. He is Vice-President of the No to NTDs Civil Society Network, which provides a platform for CSOs to consult and collaborate to maximize their efforts in fighting NTDs. Mr. Dopyogui demonstrates immense leadership in his role at Jeunesse Secours, where he rallies young people, media reporters and fellow civil society organizations to increase awareness in the fight against NTDs.

*"To end Neglected Tropical Diseases in Africa and globally, we must increase the awareness around these diseases. We are so proud to have been part of this movement and to have lit up the Monument du 22 Novembre in Guinea to mark World NTD Day. Solidarity is key to eliminate this group of diseases, and people and our communities must know that every action against NTDs, resonates on the continent and globally."*

# CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT

Throughout 2021, we were privileged to work with many dedicated champions. By lending their powerful voices to the fight against NTDs, we were able to share information on solutions and drive conversation about what is needed to end suffering once and for all.



*“We must intensify our efforts to eliminate NTDs by 2030! Today I*

*am making a hopeful call to strengthen the contribution of all authorities, partners and CSOs, whom I warmly thank for their CSOs, whom I warmly thank for their engagement so far at our side to control and eliminate NTDs. However, as long as these diseases are rampant, we will always need an ever increasing collective, civil, governmental and community contribution.»*

**Dr Fatoumata Sakho**  
Coordinator of the NTDs National Program in Guinea



*“With the right approach and funding, we can achieve even greater progress in the coming years. By combining increased investment with stronger accountability and intensified collaboration across sectors, as called for in the new road map, I believe we will go from strength as we unite to combat NTDs.”*

**Dr Mwelecele Ntuli Malecela**  
Director of the WHO Department of Control of NTDs

# MALARIA



**MALARIA CONTINUES TO BE A SIGNIFICANT THREAT ACROSS SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, ACCOUNTING FOR 95% OF CASES AND 96% OF DEATHS FROM MALARIA IN 2020.**

With so many on the African continent suffering from this preventable and treatable disease, ongoing investment, innovation, and action is critical. 2021 saw many incredible strides forward – most notably with the launch of the WHO E2025 progress report, which shows that more countries are closer to elimination than ever before, as well as the historic recommendation by the WHO to roll out the first ever RTS,S malaria vaccine across the continent.

This year through the Zero Malaria Starts with Me movement, working with our partners we continued to galvanize action across Africa.

## OUR IMPACT

**6** 6 champions engaged to increase awareness and prominence of malaria in Benin, Burkina Faso and Senegal

**37** 37 companies and 16 business leaders mobilized through the Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative to strengthen private sector engagement

**92** 92 key stakeholders participated in the development of high-level national malaria advocacy plans in 2 countries in order to build malaria advocacy capacity and drive towards sustained leadership and domestic financing for malaria control

**63** 63 pieces of coverage across key African titles to drive conversation around malaria in the media

**12** 12 CSOs developed action plans to fight against malaria across Benin, Burkina Faso and Senegal

**52,100** 52,100 people reached on social media through hashtags including: #ZeroMalariaStartsWithMe and #ZeroMalariaBusinessLeadershipInitiative

# FEATURED INITIATIVES



## • CANAL+ AFRIQUE JOINS THE ZERO MALARIA MOVEMENT

This year, we were thrilled to have media broadcaster Canal+ join the Zero Malaria movement with a documentary on the challenges, efforts and successes of malaria control in Africa. Developed in partnership with the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, the documentary featured protagonists from Benin, Cameroon and Senegal who share the common goal of ending malaria.

We also worked closely with Canal+ to broadcast a concert on the eve of World Malaria Day to share the message of Zero Malaria in collaboration with Médecin Sans Frontière West and Central Africa. Viewed by more than 24 million people, the concert brought together talented West African artists, including Senegalese singer Youssou N'dour (Senegal), Angélique Kidjo (Benin), Meiwai (Côte d'Ivoire) and Charlotte Dipanda (Cameroun), to unite their voices for zero malaria.



## • ZERO MALARIA STARTS WITH ME CELEBRATES ITS 3 YEARS

To mark the occasion, in July the global malaria community came together to recognize the importance of domestic resource mobilization and the success of initiatives such as End Malaria Councils/Funds and the Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative, through an engaging webinar. Featuring insights from Ms Joy Phumaphi, Executive Secretary of ALMA, Ms Olivia Ngou, Executive Director, Impact Santé Afrique, and Ms. Eunice Loisel, Ecobank Benin's Director of Commercial Banking, the event highlighted the importance of country ownership and what more is needed to reach zero malaria across the continent.

## • GROWING THE ECOBANK GROUP ZERO MALARIA BUSINESS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Throughout 2021, we continued to mobilize private sector companies to join the fight to end malaria, with 37 new companies and 16 new business leaders joining the Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative. Three countries have now launched the initiative – Benin, Burkina Faso and Senegal – with Uganda and Ghana preparing to launch in 2022.

## • EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOS) TO DRIVE THE ZERO MALARIA STARTS WITH ME MOVEMENT

This year, we provided 11 CSOs in Benin, Burkina Faso and Senegal with capacity building on advocacy and strategic communications to support them to contribute to the advocacy agenda of the Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign. We are currently assisting the implementation of their tailored action plans through ongoing technical and financial support.

## • SPECIAL OLYMPICS SENEGAL LAUNCHES ITS 'AND XEEX SIBIRU' INITIATIVE

In September 2021, a generous donation of 1,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated nets by USAID and the National Malaria Control Program led to Special Olympics Senegal relaunching its 'And Xeex Sibiru' initiative to protect its athletes and their families from malaria. Since 2017, as part of this initiative, Special Olympics Senegal has provided more than 2,500 bed nets to athletes and their families. During a ceremony at the Léopold Sedar Senghor Stadium in Dakar, Senegal as part of the Zero Malaria Starts with Me movement, former international footballer Khalilou Fadiga joined the activities to show his support for sustainable development and the wellbeing of people on the continent.

In November, Canal+ Senegal continued the support by donating 1,000 more mosquito nets as part of its ongoing commitment to the malaria fight. An inclusive football match was also held to reinforce the awareness and protection of Senegalese communities in November.

## • WHO RECOMMENDS FIRST MALARIA VACCINE

2021 was a historic moment for the global malaria community, as the WHO recommended the first ever malaria vaccine for widespread use among African children. When used with existing malaria prevention methods, such as insecticide treated bed nets and seasonal malaria chemoprevention, the RTS,S malaria will go a long way to protect children across the continent. In response to the news, our Executive Director Yacine Djibo, shared her thoughts in an opinion piece in the New York Times.

# CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT

AKE Natondé is a member of parliament who currently serves as the President of the Committee on Education, Culture, Employment and Social Affairs. As both politician and private sector leader, he is well placed to drive the advocacy agenda in both the public and private spheres, and, as one of Speak Up Africa's key malaria champions in Benin, he has recently facilitated the mobilization of other parliamentarians around the need for the increased governmental prioritization of malaria elimination.

This year, our advocacy efforts engaged high-level champions on the issue of malaria, including Pr. Awa Coll Seck, Khalilou Fadiga and Rajah Sy among others. We were also thrilled to work alongside the Ecobank Group and Special Olympics Senegal.



« Le paludisme est un tueur silencieux mais que nous pouvons éliminer en faisant porter nos voix. Aujourd'hui nous sommes dans un contexte où les ressources externes deviennent de plus en plus rares et où le secteur privé à l'échelle des pays impaludé doit jouer son rôle. En tant que champions « Zéro Palu » je lance un appel à mes collègues députés pour qu'ensemble nous soutenions les entreprises dans leur élan de contribuer à l'élimination du paludisme au Bénin. »

Honorable AKE NATONDE

Député à l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission de l'éducation, de la Culture, de l'emploi et des affaires sociales et Promoteur de la Haute École de Commerce et de Management (HECM)

This year, our advocacy efforts engaged high-level champions on the issue of malaria, including Pr. Awa Coll Seck, Khalilou Fadiga and Rajah Sy among others. We were also thrilled to work alongside the Ecobank Group and Special Olympics Senegal.

*“Every athlete must have a healthy lifestyle to be able to perform on a daily basis, and awareness raising is crucial so that they have the necessary knowledge to protect themselves against the mosquitoes that transmit malaria. I am therefore particularly proud to participate in this distribution of LLINs, which, in addition to raising awareness, enables them to receive the concrete tools of malaria protection.”*

**Khalilou Fadiga**  
Roving Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal

*“Over the past three years, the Zero Malaria Starts with Me movement has played an important role in encouraging greater accountability in the fight against malaria. Yet, significant annual malaria funding gaps remains, and with COVID-19 threatening health systems across the continent, it is essential that more resources are mobilized by all sectors so that we can all reach our goal of a malaria-free Africa.”*

**D' Abdourahmane Diallo**  
CEO of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria

*“The private sector is stepping up and playing a central role in combatting malaria in order to ensure that zero malaria is achieved within a generation. The Ecobank Foundation is committed to using its platforms and resources to ensure private sector contributions through the Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative.”*

**Carl Manlan**  
Chief Operations Officer of the Ecobank Foundation

# AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO FIGHTING MALARIA AND NTDs



While NTDs and malaria are entirely preventable and treatable diseases, they continue to be major obstacles to economic and social development in Africa, affecting the most marginalized populations.

In April 2021, we launched the March to Kigali campaign in the build-up to the summit on NTDs and malaria, due to take place on the eve of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, Rwanda. While the summit has been postponed due to COVID-19, the campaign seeks to maintain and foster this energy and to develop an integrated approach to advocating for the elimination of both NTDs and malaria. The March to Kigali campaign is an initiative led by civil society organizations aiming at engaging Heads of State and Government to address the issue of neglected tropical diseases and malaria in order to identify at the strategic level concrete actions for the final elimination of these diseases.

So far, more than 150 civil society and local organizations, media, and individuals across the sub-region have signed the March to Kigali call-to-action, and we have seen political engagement, civil society and youth engagement in countries such as Sierra Leone, Guinea, Benin and Burkina Faso. A steering committee of CSOs representing 9 Francophone and Anglophone countries in West and Central Africa has been established, with these organizations coordinating national advocacy and communications efforts. These CSOs are taking ownership of the campaign's objectives, in line with the advocacy objectives of their countries. Speak Up Africa is supporting these 9 CSOs in the implementation of this integrated approach through the development of joint advocacy action plans.

## • SPOTLIGHT ON SIERRA LEONE

In March 2021, 70 youth advocates were trained on malaria and NTD advocacy and helped launch of the March to Kigali campaign.



Yvonne Aki-Sawyer **oBE**  
Mayor of Freetown

“ African countries in the Commonwealth and beyond must play a leading role in investing in stronger health and sanitation systems in order to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, including ending the epidemics of malaria and neglected tropical diseases. By ending these preventable and treatable diseases we will be investing in our children's futures and helping to unleash unimaginable levels of growth and prosperity. Together, let's March to Kigali! ”



## • BENIN LAUNCHES THE '229 MARCH TO KIGALI'

On June 5th, Via Me, a Civil Society Organization in Benin, alongside 60 other CSOs

launched the campaign at the national level and have subsequently developed a road map for the campaign in Benin.

● **GENDER, NTDS & MALARIA**

To mark the International Day of the Girl Child, a panel titled: «Jointly fighting NTDS and malaria to promote gender equality» was held in partnership with the Women’s Museum of Benin to sensitize communities on the burden of malaria and NTDS and to highlight the disproportionate impact of these diseases on women and girls in Africa.



● **THE FOLLOWING KEY SPEAKERS TOOK PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS:**

Dr. Anicet ADJEIN, representative of the National Malaria Control Program; Dr. Wilfrid BATCHO, Coordinator of the National Program for the Control of Transmissible Diseases; Dr. Odry AGBESSI, reconstructive surgeon and President of the association VIA-ME; Zackiath LATOUNDJI, Health Journalist and President of the Union of Media Professionals of Benin (UPMB).



● **SENEGAL JOINS THE MOVEMENT**

Elhadj Diop, Zero Malaria Starts with Me community champion and president of AISM-Thièneba, joined the fight against NTDS and responded to new cases of schistosomiasis in the commune of Ndangane by holding community discussions, visiting schools and health posts, and widely sharing sensitization messages. In Senegal, CSO ANJ, President of the ‘No to NTDS’ network, launched the March to Kigali campaign, which served as an opportunity to recall the value of an integrated approach to the fight against NTDS and malaria by highlighting the cross-cutting nature of these diseases as well as the importance of a multi-sectoral approach.

By coordinating the efforts of other national CSOs, ANJ is contributing to the rapid and effective achievement of advocacy objectives at the national level. More than 20 CSOs also signed the call-to-action and committed to support the campaign.



*“For too long the fight against malaria has been gender blind. It is time to*

*address the hidden burden of malaria on women and girls.”*

**Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**  
co-chair of the Global Council to End Malaria, former President of Liberia and founder of the Presidential Center of Women Leaders and Development.



# SANITATION



## AFRICA IS ONE OF TWO MAJOR REGIONS WHO HAVE MADE THE LEAST STRIDES IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6 ON WATER AND HYGIENE.

Despite sanitation being a basic human right, 72% of the Sub-Saharan African population live without access to basic sanitation, and 32% still practice open defecation.

The value of sanitation is often neglected, while increased access to safely managed sanitation means improved public health, livelihoods and dignity for households and entire communities. At Speak Up Africa, we believe that no child, woman, and man should be left behind – everyone, at all levels of society, deserves access to safely managed sanitation systems.

Ahead of the World Water Forum, taking place in Dakar, Senegal in March 2022, Speak Up Africa is supporting the World Water Forum Secretariat with strategic communications and key stakeholder engagement, as well as with the creation of the Sanitation Village – a space entirely dedicated to sanitation innovations and initiatives.

## OUR IMPACT

**100**

100 stakeholders with the organization of National Stakeholder Consultations in Niger and Senegal in support of the development and launch of the African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG).

Engaged Mr. Serigne Mbaye Thiam, Senegal's Minister of Water and Sanitation, and Ms. Sareen Malik, Coordinator of the African Network of Civil Society for WASH (ANEW) to play a key role in engaging stakeholders at the regional level. Minister Thiam formally endorsed the ASPG during the launch ceremony and declared that sanitation policies in Senegal will be developed according to these principles.

Published the Sanitation Dossier which highlights best practices and success in Senegal's sanitation sector, in collaboration with Financial Afrik.

**9**

Engaged the sanitation community on the road to Dakar 2022 – ahead of the 9th World Water Forum.

# FEATURED INITIATIVES

## • CAPOOP

Throughout 2021, we continued to support the Communications, Advocacy, Policy Opportunities and Outreach for Poop (CAPOOP) platform, an alliance of 10 organizations-committed to achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all. Through regular meetings and the use of shared tools and resources, together we were able to pool knowledge and work towards improving sanitation across Africa.



## • GOLDEN SLUDGE CAMPAIGN

We developed a tailored campaign to support the creation of an enabling environment for sanitation. The Golden Sludge campaign aims at increasing awareness, prioritization,

and national commitment to accelerate access to safely managed sanitation across Africa. Through engaging key sanitation stakeholders, our campaign promotes safely managed sanitation and maintains the dialogue around policy change.

*“The national consultation framework on sanitation allows for better regulation and coordination of actors in the sanitation sub-sector. We created this framework in order to promote a multi-sectoral approach, as well as a sharing of efforts and resources.”*

**Dr Ababakar Mbaye**  
Director General of the National Office of Sanitation of Senegal (ONAS)



# CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT

In 2021, one of our objectives was to support the Ministry of Water and Sanitation in Senegal to increase the narrative around sanitation. We were thrilled to work with the Ministry and Serigne Mbaye Thiam, Minister of Water and Sanitation, to conduct interviews with outlets such as Telesud and place thought leadership content in media outlets such as Afrik21.

*“We will continue to work with local actors to create an environment conducive to the development and well-being of the population. Through cooperation, Africa has the means to provide a healthy living environment for every individual, and thus to propel the continent’s productivity and economic development! Together, we can transform our continent, accelerate progress, and improve the lives of our citizens with greater comfort and security.”*

**Serigne Mbaye Thiam**  
Minister of Water and Sanitation in the Republic of Senegal

Sanitation Director of Senegal, Mr. Omar Sene also contributed to an interview with Pan African media outlet, Telesud to highlight national and local initiatives supporting the increase of safely managed sanitation.

*“The 9th World Water Forum will be a major African event, with Senegal hosting this global meeting on behalf of Africa, which has never been held in sub-Saharan Africa.”*

**M. Abdoulaye Sène**  
Executive Secretary of the 9th World Water Forum

# WORKING ON OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

## OUR FUNDING PARTNERS



BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation



newventurefund



## OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS



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GRAYLING



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*2021 was a remarkable year for Speak Up Africa, and it has been a great honour to work with an organisation that seeks to improve the quality of life for Africans. I would like to thank all our partners, colleagues and friends for their steadfast support and commitment. By working together, we can make great strides towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and ultimately improve the lives of millions across the continent."*

**Yacine Barro Bourgault**  
Board Chair, Speak Up Africa



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