



SpeakUpAfrica.



IMPACT REPORT  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

*Embarking on our second decade  
driving sustainable development  
in Africa*

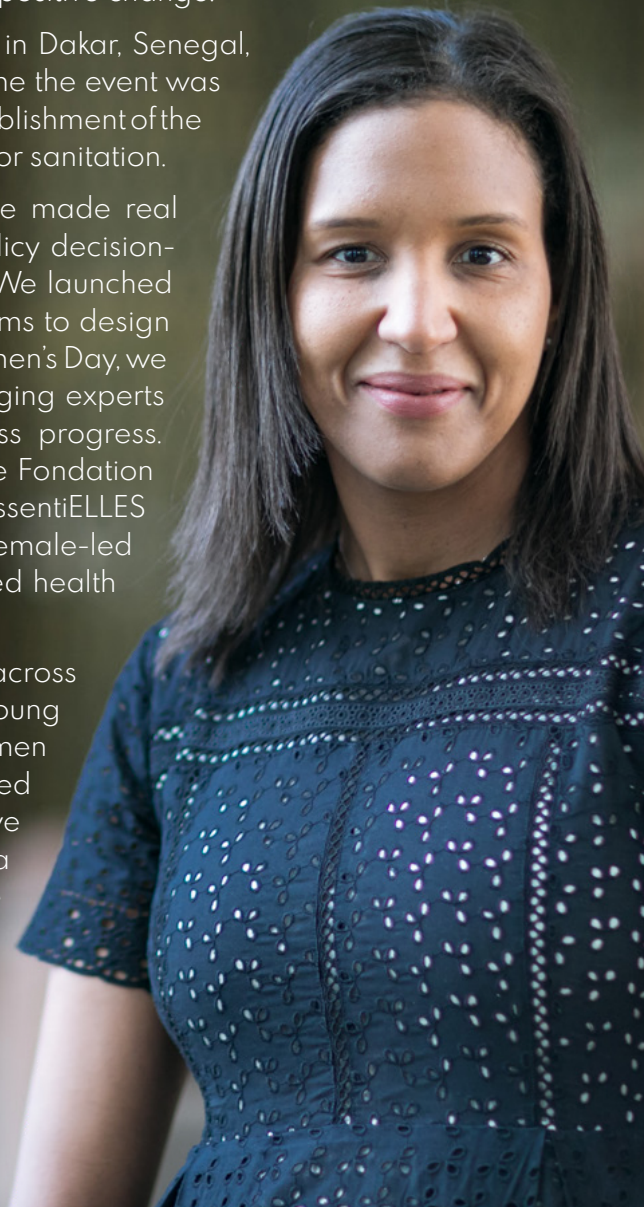
**Dear friends,**

It's been another momentous year for Speak Up Africa. Our organization entered its second decade in 2022, and I am particularly proud of the endless passion, drive, and commitment of our partners involved to influence positive change.

We kickstarted 2022 at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal, a significant occasion as it not only marked the first time the event was hosted in Sub-Saharan Africa but also included the establishment of the Sanitation Village, a first-of-its kind, dedicated space for sanitation.

If I could single out a few other highlights, we have made real inroads this year for the role of women in health policy decision-making and business innovation across West Africa. We launched Speak Up Africa's gender strategy, equipping our teams to design and deliver equitable programs. On International Women's Day, we launched our first ever African LeadHERs Forum, bringing experts and gender equality champions together to discuss progress. Through our Voix EssentiELLES initiative alongside the Fondation CHANEL and The Global Fund, we formed the Voix EssentiELLES Advisory Council, and provided catalytic funding to female-led grassroots organizations to advocate for strengthened health programs in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal.

We also continued to support research and innovation across Africa. We implemented the first edition of the African Young Innovators for Health Award and delivered the Women Innovators Incubator program. In addition, we launched our African Women in Digital Health (AWIDH) initiative as part of Africa CDC Digital Transformation Strategy, a multidisciplinary platform that brings together a range of stakeholders working on gender, digital and global health issues to support the sharing of knowledge, build connections, and reduce inequalities.



We were also proud to strengthen civil society organizations' capacity in this area to deliver advocacy, strategic communications and research activities, and conduct community engagement activities in over 300 villages in Niger. In the same vein, and together with Baobab Institute and Transform Health, we launch the 1st Francophone West African Digital Health Network, ReSAF, to highlight existing digital solutions and ensure better access to health services in the region.

In 2022, we continued to develop our malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) activities, and supported countries to integrate these two programs. Over 300 civil society organizations (CSOs) joined our March to Kigali campaign, a CSO-led movement calling on leaders to prioritize the elimination of malaria and NTDs ahead of the Kigali Summit on malaria and NTDs. Through the campaign, countries strived for malaria and NTDs data integration.

On malaria, we supported decision-makers across Africa to develop national advocacy plans for malaria, and were delighted to continue our work with the Ecobank Group, the African Union Commission and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria to expand the Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative (ZMBLI) into new markets, now engaging 37 local businesses across Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Uganda. On NTDs, we trained more than 110 NTD program personnel to deliver performance scorecards, and created a range of francophone platforms for exchange and dialogue to address the challenges of NTD elimination.

We continued to champion young people's voices to be heard in Africa's healthcare debate, culminating with a panel at the Galien Africa Forum on the theme of Universal Health Coverage. We also amplified the voices of scientific experts on a range of health-related topics in the media through our African Voices of Science initiative, working with journalists and influencers to report more effectively on African health challenges.

Now, as we look ahead into 2023, we're excited to continue to maintain and expand our existing programs. This includes running the next edition of the Young African Innovators for Health Award, launching a mentoring program with the Basketball Africa League (BAL) as part of the African LeadHERs campaign, and kicking off the Zero Malaria F.C. with the RBM Partnership to End Malaria.

Above all, we hope to see a shift to locally-led health solutions that will strengthen African healthcare systems and focus on ensuring that marginalized groups have a seat at the table. We look forward to continuing to deliver impactful policy change and concrete action for sustainable development in Africa throughout the coming year.

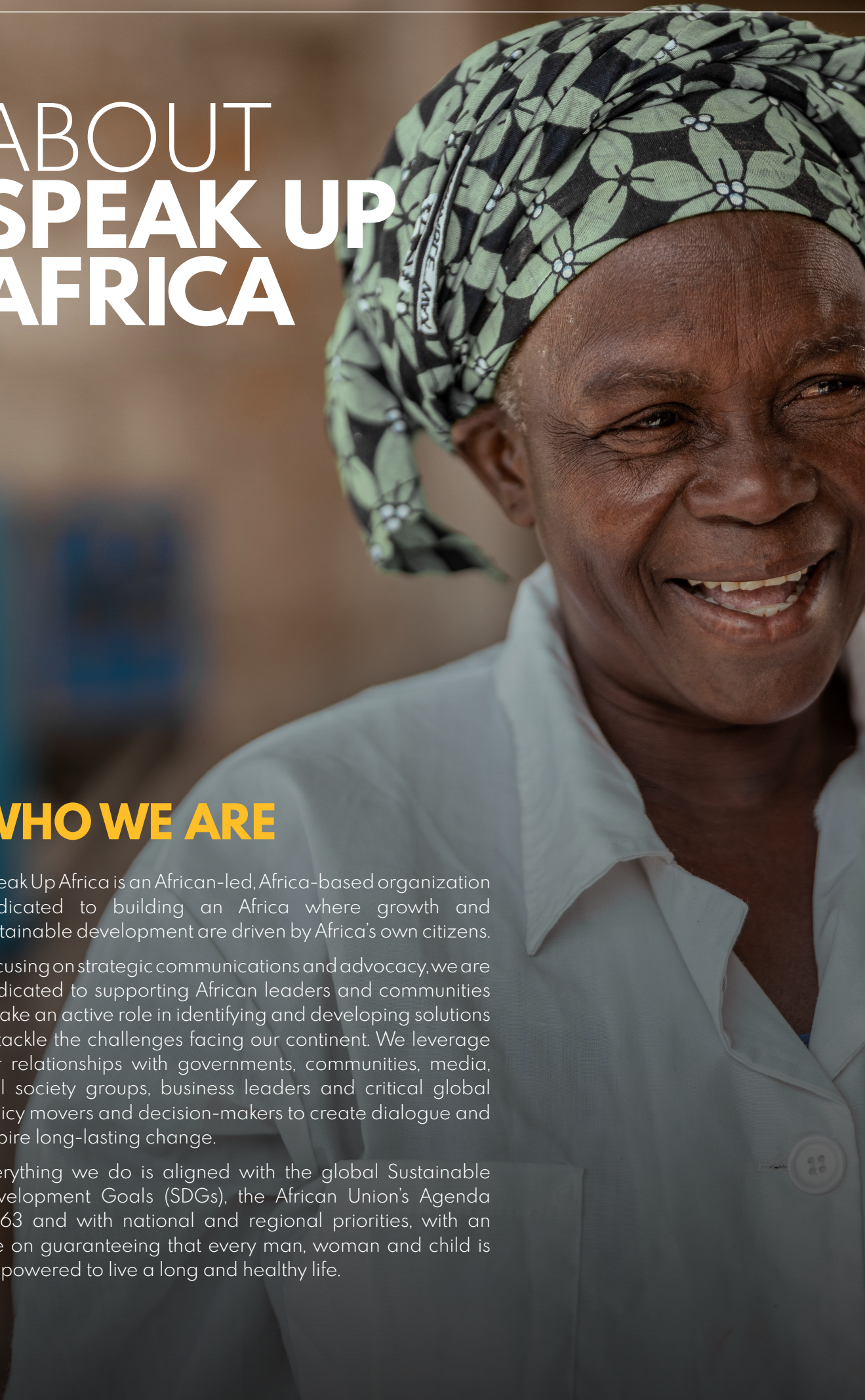
# ABOUT SPEAK UP AFRICA

## WHO WE ARE

Speak Up Africa is an African-led, Africa-based organization dedicated to building an Africa where growth and sustainable development are driven by Africa's own citizens.

Focusing on strategic communications and advocacy, we are dedicated to supporting African leaders and communities to take an active role in identifying and developing solutions to tackle the challenges facing our continent. We leverage our relationships with governments, communities, media, civil society groups, business leaders and critical global policy movers and decision-makers to create dialogue and inspire long-lasting change.

Everything we do is aligned with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union's Agenda 2063 and with national and regional priorities, with an eye on guaranteeing that every man, woman and child is empowered to live a long and healthy life.



# 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.

# WHAT WE DO

## WE CONVENE.

Because there is power in numbers and in diversity, we bring together stakeholders from all walks of life to increase relevance of the issues affecting our continent, generate commitments and foster immediate action.

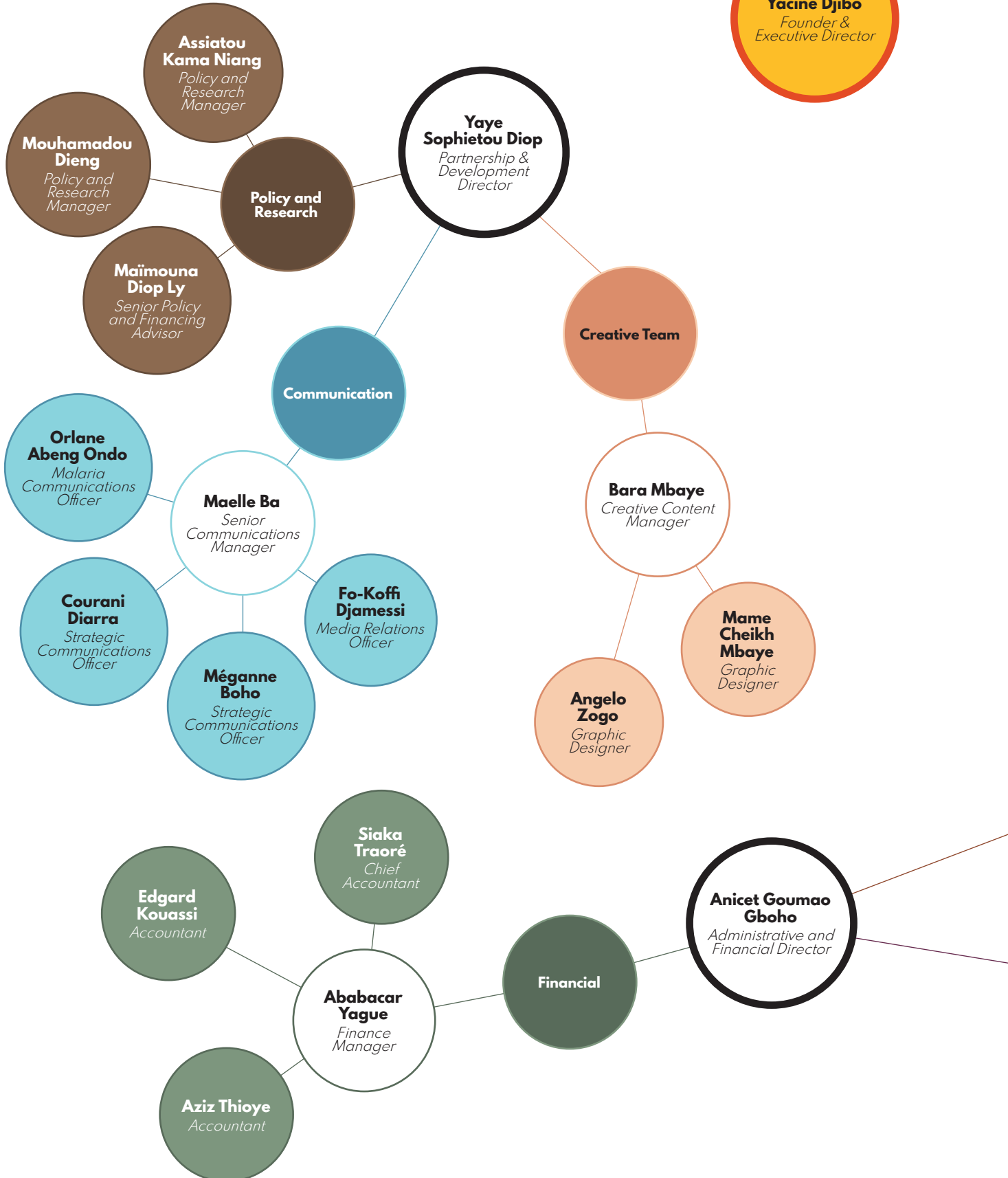
## WE ENABLE.

We support our partners so that they are better able to influence positive change and provide platforms for their voices to be amplified.

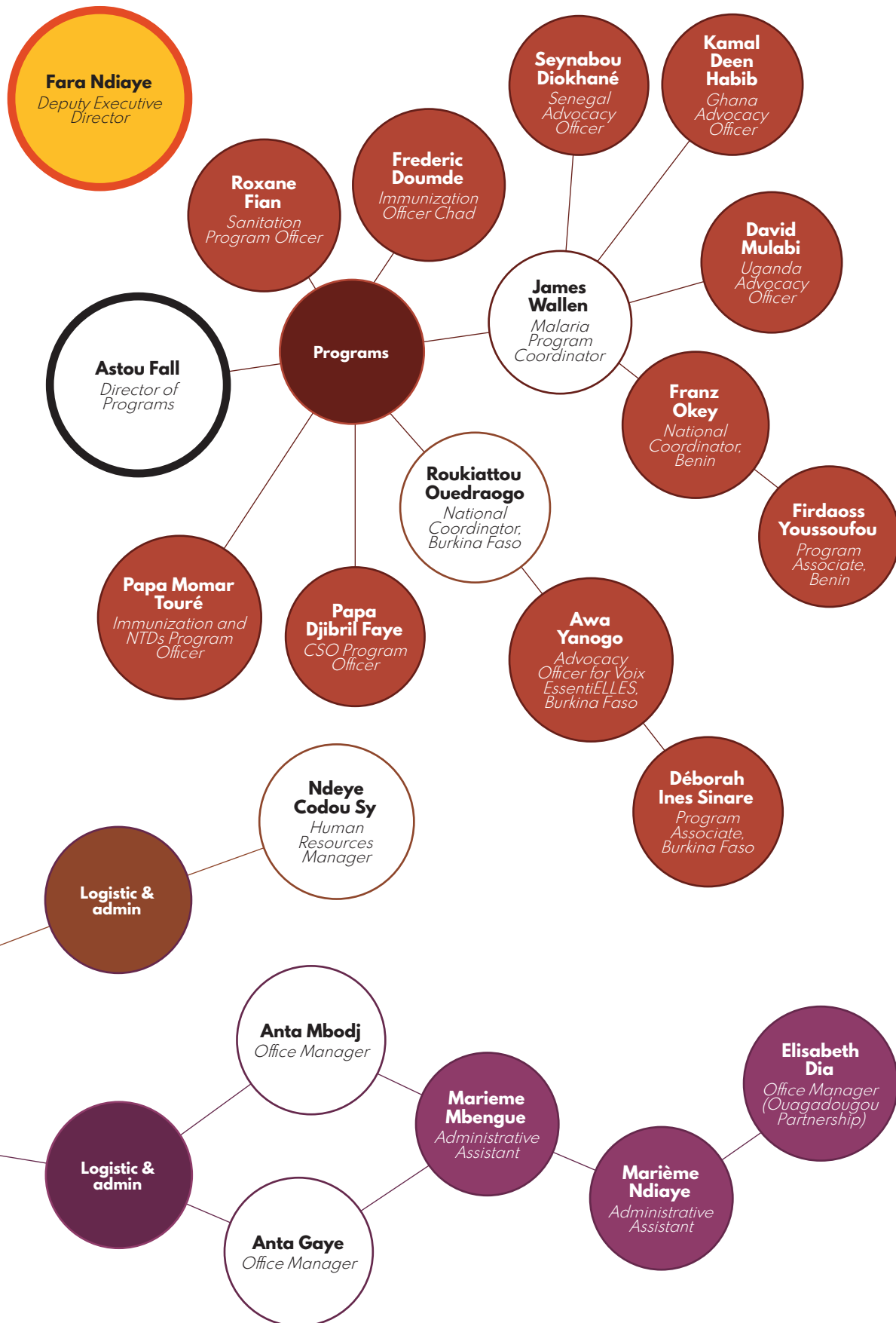
## WE ADVOCATE.

We work with leaders with governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, media, donors and organizations to drive long-lasting policy change.

# OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS.





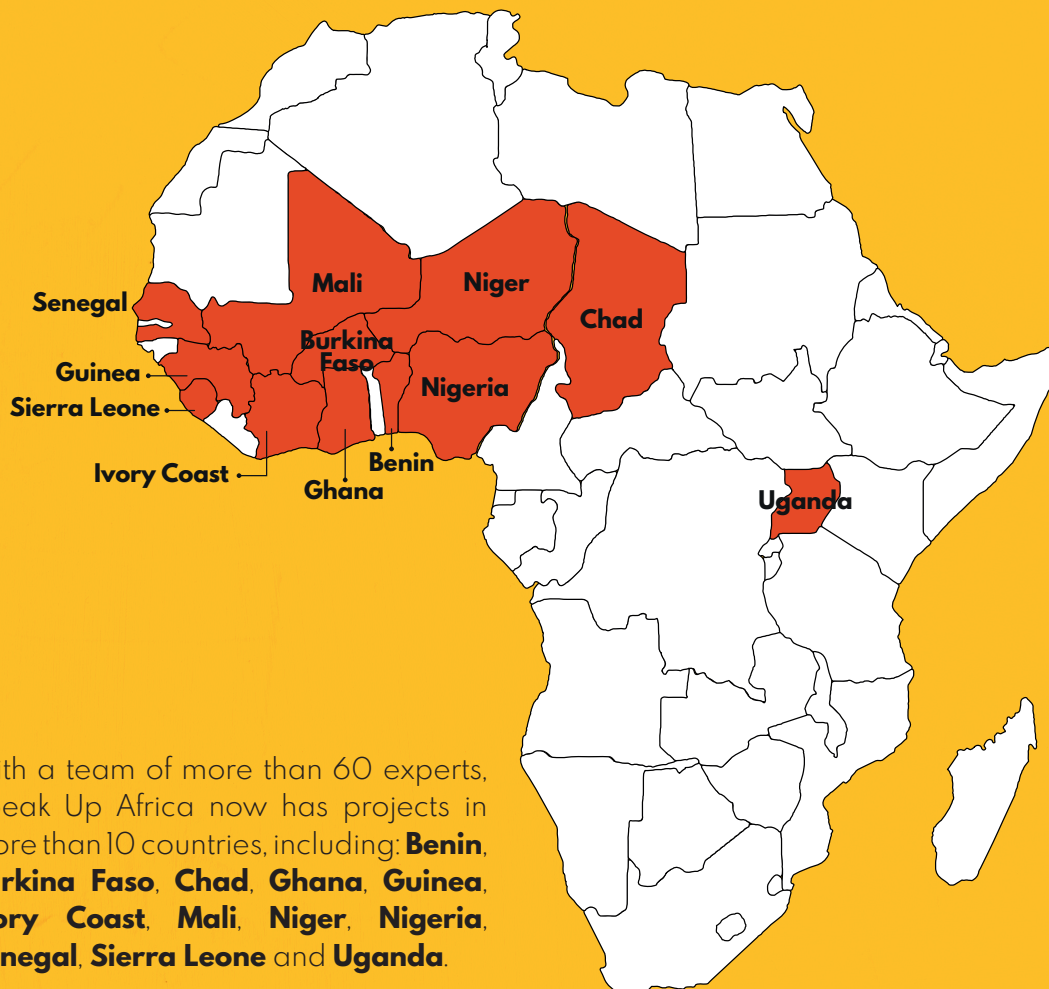


## OUR REACH.

From our strategic base in Dakar, Senegal, our team of dedicated, nimble, and bilingual experts partners with African leaders and change-makers to put in place the right policies and secure sufficient resources to achieve our sustainable development goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Our experienced team operates seamlessly in French and English. We are uniquely placed to bring together civil society organizations, private sector, media, governmental and regional institutions across the continent to contribute to building the Africa we all want.

We work on different issue areas, but not in silos. We understand that our ability to tackle specific diseases or challenges depends on strong health systems and, ultimately, universal health coverage. This belief drives all of our work and cuts across all of our issues.



With a team of more than 60 experts, Speak Up Africa now has projects in more than 10 countries, including: **Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Uganda.**



## AREAS OF INTERVENTION.

**Within the umbrella of the SDGs and the African Union’s Agenda 2063, we work on several issue areas, including malaria, NTDs, immunization, sanitation, gender equality and global health research and development including youth engagement.**

Our work, however, is not executed in silos: it is underpinned by the knowledge and belief that our efforts addressing any of these issues are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

Our work is underpinned by the knowledge that our efforts—to tackle malaria, neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), immunization, or sanitation and gender challenges—are interlinked and reinforce one another.

Our ability to achieve our goals depends on strong health systems. Vaccines save lives only if they reach those who need them the most, which requires a trained and motivated health care workforce, adequate supplies of vaccines and equipment, the right infrastructure, and an informed population that demands vaccination. All of this needs to be supported by adequate and sustainable funding, and a steady flow of research that can generate the evidence needed to inform policies.

These pillars also underpin our ability to prevent, control and treat malaria and neglected tropical disease, which are impossible to eliminate without adequate and sustainable sanitation solutions. And without ensuring our continent’s women, girls and youth have a seat at the decision-making table, efforts to build a better future for our continent would be severely impeded.

Some of our recent highlights include:



We welcomed **more than 2,000 visitors** to the 'Sanitation Village, a first of its kind innovation led platform, which featured 24 exhibitors and 11 sessions and side-events. Stands ranged from educational activities on sanitation and hygiene to innovation demonstrations.



Over **300 civil society organizations (CSOs)** joined our March to Kigali campaign, a CSO-led movement calling on leaders to prioritize the elimination of malaria and NTDs ahead of the Kigali Summit on malaria and NTDs and showcase integration across the two disease areas. This resulted in the **design and adoption of ministerial decrees** by the Ministry of Health in Guinea and Senegal.



We trained and engaged more than **110 NTDs program personnel** in Burkina Faso, Guinea and Senegal to deliver performance scorecards for World NTD Day. We also **created and sustained a range of spaces for exchange and dialogue** to enable francophone stakeholders to address the challenges of NTD elimination in Africa, convening **210 healthcare experts** at the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie Summit.



We continued to support the fight against malaria, expanding the Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative into **Uganda**, with Ecobank Uganda contributing US\$120,000. We also mobilized **more than US\$1.15 million** in free broadcasting of malaria-related content from financial and in-kind contributions from the private sector.



Over **26 experts and 260 participants** came together in-person and online at the Africa LeadHERs Forum, to call for increased representation, innovation and action. On Africa Day, we also celebrated women's achievements by launching a new podcast in partnership with Entre Elles and **delivering 1,200 sanitary pads** to athletes with intellectual disabilities, and presenting the Union Sportive de Ouakam with a cheque for one million CFA francs.



Continuing our drive to empower **African women through digital connectivity**, we launched the **African Women in Digital Health movement (AWiDH)** as part of Africa CDC Digital Transformation Strategy, bringing together stakeholders from various sectors, including digital, gender and global health, to eliminate the gender-related digital divide and bolster women's leadership and engagement in digital health. We also conducted community engagement activities on these issues in **over 300 villages** across the Nigerien regions of Dosso and Tahoua, reaching over 9,150 members of the public.



We continued to advance our inclusion and sports for development agenda, receiving two prestigious prizes, **the 2022 Global Golisano Health Leadership Award** and **Jury Prize** from Sport en Commun at the Sport Impact Awards.



We generated 109 media stories across eight countries in East and West Africa as a result of our **Lines of Impact initiative** increase the quality and volume of reporting around the health challenges facing our continent.



We engaged **63 civil society organizations** in key initiatives and capacity strengthening workshops.



# FEATURED INITIATIVES.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

We can only achieve our objectives by working in partnership with national governments, regional institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs).

During 2022, Speak Up Africa further strengthened its relationships with key organizations across the continent. We are partnering with the West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) to accelerate the control and elimination of preventable NTDs and malaria and promote universal health access across the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

*This agreement will help WAHO move closer to our public health goals, especially those pertaining to NTDs, malaria and the regional pharmaceutical sector. We look forward to pursuing our collaboration with Speak Up Africa to improve and protect policies, which enhance the health of our people.*

### STANLEY OKOLO

Former Director General of WAHO

We also continued to work with our existing partners, including the African Union, the African Minister's Council on Water, civil society organizations and national institutions across the continent.



## LINES OF IMPACT

Speak Up Africa launched its Lines of Impact initiative in 2021 to strengthen journalists' ability to generate quality media coverage on a range of topics impacting Africa's health, including Neglected Tropical Diseases, malaria, immunization, digital health, gender equality, sanitation, and health-related Research & Development in Africa. Through Lines of Impact, we are ensuring these issues and their solutions are at the heart of media conversations.

We expanded the initiative in 2022 over two phases, with the participation of 11 French- and English-speaking journalists from eight West and East African countries, which resulted in nearly one hundred media stories appearing in print, online, and TV.

*Lines of Impact has really enhanced my interest in health and gender reporting. For me, the initiative is not only helping to bring out some of the most pertinent health, gender and social issues affecting African countries for redress, but practically contributing to disease prevention and interventions. As a journalist on this initiative, I feel so proud that my little contribution is also helping many people in Ghana to learn a few things about certain diseases and how to avoid or get treatment for them. More importantly, the initiative has also helped to change certain social norms that affect the progress and development of women and girls in Africa.*

### ZADOK KWAME GYESI

Journalist, Daily Graphic/Graphic Online (Ghana)

*The media is a crucial instrument to accelerate progress towards equitable access to health care. As journalists, the Lines of Impact initiative gives us the means to act effectively, to mobilize various stakeholders around the major challenges of public health, but above all to help save lives by disseminating reliable information to our communities.*

### VIVIANE DIATTA

Journalist, L'Infos (Senegal)

*The [Lines of Impact] initiative increases our technical and operational capacities to deliver evidence-based coverage of public health issues in Africa. It allows us to produce relevant media stories which keeps the public informed and alerts public authorities to emergencies.*

### HAROUNA DRABO

Journalist, Faso Check (Burkina Faso)

## MALARIA

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there were 247 million malaria cases worldwide in 2021, with 95% of those cases in sub-Saharan Africa. Civil society plays a key role in influencing and promoting public dialogue about decisions that affect the lives of millions, while holding governments and policymakers publicly accountable. Speak Up Africa has been at the forefront at fostering cross-sectoral collaboration to end malaria by focusing on convening, coordinating, and sustaining national advocacy efforts.

In 2022, Africa saw more positive commitments from governments. At the Kigali Summit on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases, held on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in July, malaria-affected countries committed more than US\$2.2 billion in domestic resources towards combating malaria to the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment. The Global Fund later confirmed the Replenishment delivered US\$15.7 billion in total to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria throughout 2023-2026.

## OUR IMPACT

**34** parliamentarians engaged for malaria elimination efforts in Benin

**69** representatives of private sector companies and umbrella organizations join the fight to end malaria

**US\$1.15**

million mobilized in financial and in-kind contributions from private sector companies through the Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative

Parliamentary approval of a

**60%** increase of the governmental budget for malaria control in the 2023 budget

**2** Public-Private Partnership agreements signed in Senegal with major companies I-CONS and IAMGOLD, implementing impactful malaria-control action plans in high-burden districts

**3** National Malaria Advocacy Plans developed in Benin, Senegal and Burkina Faso to support domestic resource mobilisation efforts and multi-sectoral advocacy as part of the "Zero Malaria Starts with Me" campaign

**6** Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) provided with capacity strengthening and financial support to execute advocacy action plans in Benin and Senegal

**64** journalists and other media professionals engaged through educational workshops

**96** media articles published supporting malaria elimination advocacy efforts, including the Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative

**Over 5.5 million**

people reached on social media through the Zero Malaria Starts with Me movement.





## ZERO MALARIA STARTS WITH ME

Speak Up Africa pioneered the Zero Malaria Starts with Me movement in Senegal, which has continued to gain pan-African momentum since 2018 with the leadership of the AU Commission and RBM Partnership to End Malaria. The campaign has three key aims in taking the fight to malaria across the African continent – to generate political commitment; to mobilize private sector engagement and financing; and to increase community engagement and ownership with the goal of eliminating malaria in Africa by 2030. Four years on, more than 25 African countries have adopted the movement at a national scale.

During 2022, Speak Up Africa supported decision-makers in Senegal, Benin, and Burkina Faso to develop National Advocacy Plans through an inclusive and participatory process with a broad range of stakeholders for all sectors. Speak Up Africa also provided capacity strengthening and financial support to six CSOs in Senegal and Benin to reinforce local capacity to drive advocacy strategies.



Benin also hosted a high-level event for World Malaria Day 2022, presided by Mariam Chabi Talata, Vice President of Benin, and attended by politicians, CSOs and private companies. Coupled with a wide-variety of other multi-sectoral advocacy interventions led by malaria champions, CSOs, media and the private sector, this led to the landmark increase of the national budget for malaria by 60% compared to the average over the last five years.

To mark International Youth Day, an open letter was signed by African youth vowing to be the generation that ends malaria, calling on global leaders to step up commitments to achieve the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment's funding target. The letter was supported by Speak Up Africa together with the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, and the African Union.

*Action is essential to succeed in the elimination of malaria. It requires an enormous number of resources hence the need for public and private, internal, and external partners.*

**MARIAM CHABI TALATA**

Vice-President of Benin

*The response to Covid-19 has demonstrated African countries' leadership and ownership in strengthening their public health systems and adapting new delivery approaches of malaria control interventions. More resources and commitments must be mobilized by all sectors so that we can all reach our goal of ending malaria.*

**DR. CORINE KAREMA**

Interim CEO of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria

## ZERO MALARIA BUSINESS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

In March 2022, the Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative (ZMBLI) was expanded into Uganda by Ecobank Uganda, supported by a contribution of US\$120,000. ZMBLI is part of the wider Zero Malaria Starts with Me campaign and aims to mobilize private sector companies in the fight against malaria in Africa to achieve a malaria-free continent within a generation.

Beyond malaria's devastating human impact, it comes with an economic cost, with billions of school days and work days lost each year to malaria, reducing GDP growth in endemic countries. During 2022, Speak Up Africa supported the roll-out of the ZMBLI initiative in Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Ghana and Uganda. A total of US\$1.15 million has been mobilized in financial and in-kind contributions from the private sector through this initiative since its regional launch in July 2020.

Towards the end of the year, at the Africa Santé Expo in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, we convened a round table on the learnings from the Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative. Speakers from the Ecobank Foundation, Canal+ Senegal, Univers Bio Médical from Burkina Faso, and a representative from the Beninese Parliament discussed the impact that business and media can make in the fight against malaria.

*With an initial donation of \$120,000 per country, and a deep commitment to bring our expertise and network of business clients and partners to bear on this critical public health challenge, the Zero Malaria Business Leadership Initiative will strengthen existing resource mobilization efforts at the national level and support the effective implementation of countries' national strategic plans for malaria control and elimination.*

**ELISA DESBORDES CISSÉ**

Head of Ecobank Foundation

*To eliminate malaria, we need to ensure that the disease is seen as the threat it really is. The private sector and the media have an important role to play in mobilizing the necessary resources to eliminate it.*

**MAIMOUNA TOUNKARA**

Head of Communications at Canal + Senegal



## GENDER EQUALITY

As a women-led organization, gender equality is in our DNA. Gender equality is a fundamental human right and is vital for a prosperous world, and a healthy, prosperous, sustainable Africa. Unless women and girls — in all their diversity — can meaningfully hold leadership positions, making decisions and allocating resources, our continent will never fully thrive. However, at the current pace, gender gaps will take more than 120 years to close in Africa, and it is estimated that women will not achieve pay or leadership equity with men for another 135 years. Across the continent, women also continue to suffer disproportionately from public health challenges such as malaria, NTDs and inadequate sanitation.

Speak Up Africa is on a mission to change that, and has been leading the way, driving for women's participation and leadership, and to empower women across Africa. Our work in this space has included driving conversations around gender equality across the continent; engaging community leaders in campaigns to break taboos around menstrual hygiene; hosting the Ouagadougou Partnership, an organization committed to doubling the number of modern contraceptives users by 2030; creating African LeadHERs, an umbrella campaign to elevate women and girls' voices in decision-making for health, and more.

On International Women's Day 2022, we announced our gender strategy to fuel our ambition to assume leadership and generate conversations around gender equity and social inclusion. Through this strategy, we are working to improve attitudes, institutional systems and broader consideration around gender and social inclusion and, ultimately, create an environment for gender mainstreaming in national, regional, and global policies and strategies.

## OUR IMPACT

**26** experts and **260**

participants came together in-person and online to call for increased representation, innovation and action at the African LeadHERs Forum

**40** media outlets featured the Voix EssentiELLEs initiative including Jeune Afrique, El País, Le Monde Afrique and RFI

**2,000+** downloads

of a new podcast in partnership with Entre-Elles

**187 Voix EssentiELLEs**

participated in the leadership training modules to equip themselves to advocate for gender equality in leadership and positively influence the narrative around women and girls in health decision-making spaces

**More than 10 million people**

reached via the #VoixEssentiELLEs hashtag

**3** Voix EssentiELLEs grantees contributed to policy debates in high-level decision-making spaces to inform more gender transformational health policies including the Parliament in Burkina Faso

**13** stakeholders, experts, influencers and organizations formed the Voix EssentiELLEs Advisory Council to champion the initiative

**35 grassroots organizations** dedicated to supporting women and girls across Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal participated in capacity-building activities

## AFRICAN LEADERS

To commemorate International Women's Day 2022, Speak Up Africa organized its first ever African LeadHERs Forum. The two-day event brought together 26 experts and gender equality champions, and more than 260 participants online and in person from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal.

Through the African LeadHERs program, we partner with leaders from all sectors of society, including sports, fashion, culture, and art to work together creatively to build a stronger, fairer, and more inclusive world.

During this year's African LeadHERs Forum, we launched our Gender and Social Inclusion strategy. The plan has four strategic orientations and eight operational standards set for gender mainstreaming. It details a multi-pronged approach to providing solutions to the most critical issues that African populations face when working to create a more equitable world.

In addition, our first-ever podcast was launched in collaboration with Entre-Elles, a platform for expression and sharing. The Entre-Elles podcast kicked-off with a six-episode series profiling the incredible work of the beneficiaries of our Voix EssentiELLES program.

*Initiatives such as the African LeadHERs Forum help underscore the importance of positive movements. More often than not, women are conditioned to imbibe harmful messaging about their place in society, both at work and at home. Women must see themselves represented and empowered in any room they walk into.*

### YSAORA THIBUS

Fencer and 2021 team Olympic silver medallist



## VOIX ESSENTIELLES

In 2021, we launched our Voix EssentiELLEs initiative, which aims to engage women and girls in the decision-making process for health policies and programs. In 2022, we continued to build Voix EssentiELLEs. The initiative is supported by the Global Fund and the Fondation CHANEL, enabling female-led grassroots and community-based organizations to benefit from technical and financial resources to support their projects.

### Three key objectives:

- ▶ To channel funds to community-based organizations (CBOs), grassroots organizations, groups and networks as well as their leaders.
- ▶ To strengthen leadership skills and qualities of selected women and girls' leaders and champions.
- ▶ To reinforce women and girls' grassroots associations capacities to enable them to participate in and inform health programs and policies in their countries.

## THE VOIX ESSENTIELLES IMPACT MODEL

- ▶ One strong network comprised of stakeholders, experts and women and girls' influencers and organizations championing Voix EssentiELLES
- ▶ Catalytic funding provided to female-led grassroots organizations across Senegal, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire to advocate for strengthened health programs

We dedicated the first day of African LeadHERs in 2022 to Voix EssentiELLEs and its 'University of ExcELLEnce'. In Côte d'Ivoire, the Voix EssentiELLEs workshop focused on the power of financial inclusion of women in a country where nine million women are economically active yet just one million have a bank account. The debate was led by Mariam Djibo, General Manager of Advans Côte d'Ivoire, a microfinance institution. Meanwhile, in Burkina Faso, beneficiaries of the project learned about the power of communication and storytelling from, journalist and fact-checker, Harouna Drabo.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF EXCELLENCE

With two main components, capacity strengthening and leadership, the University of ExcELLEnce is a training program designed to amplify the voices of community-based organizations led by women and girls and to equip them with strategic tools to advocate effectively for improved health programs and policies in their respective communities.

Thanks to the program, Voix EssentiELLEs has unearthed a broad range of truly inspiring stories from inspiring women. For example, in Senegal, we've seen community groups in Senegal raising awareness of how to protect against tuberculosis, as well as the powerful influence of 'neighbourhood godmothers' helping to improve mother and child health with the help of Voix EssentiELLEs. In Côte d'Ivoire, the initiative has supported increased education around tuberculosis and menstrual hygiene management. In Burkina Faso, Voix EssentiELLEs has empowered local women to educate people about malaria and sexual health.

## PROPELLING THE VOIX ESSENTIELLES

The amplification of the Voix EssentiELLES is a key component of the initiative. To make them visible and heard, Speak Up Africa partners with key African journalists and global media outlets and forums to voice their needs and success.

### Overall:

- ▶ **5 Voix EssentiELLES** participated in regional and international gatherings and forums during 2022 including AFRAVIH and AIDS2022 to support the Global Fund replenishment efforts.
- ▶ **40 media productions** were published at national, regional and global level including opinion pieces in Jeune Afrique and El Pais and interviews in Le Monde Afrique and RFI.
- ▶ The social media productions reached **4,273,361 online users**, through the dissemination and amplification of partners' toolkits and creative content.
- ▶ Speak Up Africa developed a Voix EssentiELLES PSA, broadcasted more than **60 times on the Canal+ Afrique channels** during the month of March, as part of their "One month, one cause" activation, and to their 60+ million audience.

*We are thankful for organizations like Speak Up Africa, which support us by providing funding, technical support, and capacity strengthening opportunities such as the workshop on storytelling.*

### FATIMATA SY

President of the Senegalese Association for the Future of Women and Children (ASAFE) and a beneficiary of the Voix EssentiELLES fund in Senegal



## SANITATION

Today, about 4.2 billion people — more than half the world's population — live without access to adequate sanitation, such as toilets and latrines. In Africa, 135 million people have limited access to water and sanitation, a figure that has more than doubled since 2000.

We, closely with sub-national, national and regional institutions that are directly responsible for sanitation, are urging country leaders to invest in better access to safely managed sanitation services and clean drinking water. We help governments to develop adequate inclusive national sanitation policies, working with institutions such as the African Ministers' Council on Water and the African Water & Sanitation Association.

In March 2022, the ninth World Water Forum was held in Dakar, Senegal, and Speak Up Africa facilitated the sharing of ideas and solutions to Africa's sanitation challenges with the creation of the Sanitation Village. The Village, which had 24 exhibitor stands and more than 2000 visitors, served as a space for stakeholders to call for stronger action towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 6.2: to achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations by 2030.

## OUR IMPACT

**2,000+**

visitors to Sanitation Village

**61** media articles published in total around our sanitation projects driving the importance of innovation and access to safely managed sanitation

**7** journalists trained at our dedicated sanitation workshop to increase quality and quantity of sanitation media coverage and increase prioritization by decision makers

**560** engagements with Golden Sludge content on social media

**747,457**

estimated reach of #GoldenSludge and #BouesDOr hashtags

We powered capacity-strengthening for **5 regional CSOs** network to champion sanitation in Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali, and sponsored research action pieces from **5 research institutes** across West Africa

In Senegal, we supported the Executive Secretariat of the 9th World Water Forum on the organization of the 9th World Water Forum. This «**Forum of responses**» focused on solutions, and aimed at supporting initiatives with significant socioeconomic, political, and environmental impacts for local communities. As such, some 60 international projects have been labelled «**Initiative Dakar 2022**».



## GOLDEN SLUDGE

During the World Water Forum 2022, Speak Up Africa launched our 'Golden Sludge' campaign, aimed at reinforcing awareness-raising, prioritization, and political commitment through equitable and inclusive sanitation policies. We welcomed Mr Serigne Mbaye Thiam, Senegal's Minister of Water and Sanitation, to launch and endorse our campaign.

Within the Golden Sludge area of the Sanitation Village, visual artist Caroline Gueye created a triptych called "Boues d'Or et Bouts d'Arbre" (Golden Sludge and Tree Trucks). We also featured a photo exhibition from Senegalese photographer Laye Pro, showcasing the sanitation value chain.

*Everything in sanitation can be reused, and the Golden Sludge campaign clearly shows how nothing is lost, nothing is created, everything is transformed. We dream of a society where sanitation utilities and private sector companies will buy faecal sludge from household - sludge will generate revenues and reusable by-products.*

*Together, we can pave the road.*

### MR. SERIGNE MBAYE THIAM

Minister of water and sanitation, Senegal



## NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Neglected Tropical Diseases, or NTDs, are destructive, disabling and communicable diseases that affect more than 1.5 billion people globally, 39% of whom live in Africa. These diseases cause severe disfigurement and other long-term disabilities that create obstacles to education, economic growth, gender equality and overall development. Their burden often falls most heavily on the poor. Yet just 0.6% of global health funding goes to controlling NTDs.

But NTDs can be prevented and treated. Speak Up Africa has set out to alleviate suffering from NTDs by galvanizing action among policymakers, citizens and civil society organizations. We also work closely with government departments to build sustained leadership, mobilize foreign and domestic resources and improve the use of NTD data for decision-making.

Our key focus is tackling NTDs in Senegal, Niger, Guinea and Benin, where we delivered several key initiatives in 2022, ranging from stakeholder roundtables to awareness-raising illuminations of public spaces to prioritise NTD elimination.

## OUR IMPACT

**110** NTD program personnel trained and engaged to deliver scorecards in Burkina Faso, Guinea and Senegal

**22** articles were published in 2022 around Speak Up Africa's NTDs efforts

**210** participants attended roundtable designed to facilitate exchange and dialogue among francophone stakeholders to address the challenges of NTD elimination in Africa

**1.5+ million** people reached via the #NotoNTDs and #NonauxMTN hashtag, and **1,700+ social media** engagements with campaign activities

In Guinea, we helped establish a charter for NTDs with the Minister of Public Health and an agreement for an integrated review into NTDs in the country. Guinea's national NTD advocacy plan was also agreed in 2022, leading to a budget commitment to fighting NTDs.

**22** news articles covered Speak Up Africa's work combatting Neglected Tropical Diseases, more than half of which (12) were published by our Media Fellows



## NO TO NTDs

Our 'No to NTDs' movement gathered pace during 2022, with a number of keynote initiatives. 30 January 2022 marked the third annual World NTD Day, celebrated with events in Benin, Niger, and Senegal, where we organized a number of events. Meanwhile, nearly 300 people signed up to the 'March to Kigali' to raise awareness of neglected tropical diseases and say #NoToNTDs.

In Niger, where 72 districts are endemic to at least one NTD, Speak Up Africa worked with the National NTD Control Program (PNLMTN) to develop the national advocacy plan for 2022-2025.

We also supported health authorities in Senegal to develop and finalize the NTD scorecard for 2019, 2020 and 2021, and an NTD elimination plan. We trained NTD program personnel and secured the prioritization of an NTD prevention service package into universal health coverage.

## ENGAGING WITH THE FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITY

Speak Up Africa organized a roundtable in the Senegal pavilion at the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF – International Francophone Organization) summit in Tunisia in November 2022. Our aim was to encourage French-speaking nations on the African continent to renew their commitments to fight NTDs. More than 200 million people are at risk of contracting an NTD in the 26 francophone countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

The round table featured several leading figures in the fight against NTDs, including Professor Ndioro Ndiaye, Coordinator of the Francophone Network for Gender Equality of the OIF, Dr. Jean Jannin, President of the Francophone Society of Tropical Medicine and International Health, Professor Issiaka Sombie, Acting Director of the Directorate of Public Health and Research at the West African Health Organization, Doctor Abdellatif Fakhfakh, expert in international organization at the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations in Geneva, Doctor Odry Agbessi, Executive Director of the NGO 'Vie Ma Vie', Mrs Hantasoa Fida Cyrille, diplomatic adviser to the President of the Senate of Madagascar and Mr Jacques Krabal, Secretary General of the parliamentary assembly of La Francophonie.

## CSO ENGAGEMENT

In 2022, we supported 12 civil society organizations in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger, and Senegal to implement advocacy action plans to support national efforts to end NTDs.



## OUR IMPACT

**20** **parliamentarians** of the National Assembly of Niger in the presence of the Minister of Health commit to advocate for the mobilization of resources for NTDs during an orientation workshop organized by the multisectoral coalition on NTD financing

**7** **local elected officials** in Niger commit to integrate NTDs into their local development plans with an emphasis on the mobilization of endogenous resources

**3** **new partnerships** established with CSOs in Benin strengthening our coalition of CSOs, the No to NTDs network.

**1,104**

**public service announcements broadcast** in Niger, supported by further media coverage on the fight against NTDs

**300**

**declarations of commitment** signed by CSOs in the fight against NTDs by local authorities as part of the March to Kigali campaign, to call on leaders to prioritize the elimination of malaria and NTDs ahead of the Kigali Summit on malaria and NTDs and showcase integration across the two disease areas

## IMMUNIZATION

Immunization is the most effective health intervention we know, saving millions of lives every year. Vaccines can prevent more than 20 life-threatening diseases, including diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, COVID-19, malaria and measles, to name a few. Yet, globally, 1 in 5 children still lack access to even the most basic vaccines.

We and our partners are committed to increasing routine immunization in Africa so that life-saving vaccines reach those who need them the most. We achieve this by raising the profile of immunization on policymakers' agenda, promoting sustainable resource allocation for immunization at both national and international levels, strengthening coalitions and increasing demand for quality immunization services. We know that major changes won't happen without the support and engagement of political leaders and local communities. So, we work at all levels to ensure that individual and collective action is combined with political acts to create long-lasting impact.

During 2022, we ran a series of workshops in Senegal and Chad to develop local advocacy plans for the adoption of vaccinations from 2022-25. In Chad, we worked with regional radio stations to broadcast messages around Covid-19 immunization. We also engaged three leading influencers to create informative videos that were then shared across two TV channels, as well as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

## OUR IMPACT

# 40

members of the health sector and wider technical experts engaged to agree action plan in support of the establishment of a budget line for the endogenous financing of vaccination and a draft law on taxation of the mining sector to strengthen financing for immunization programs

# 2,058

radio broadcasts secured in Chad by Speak Up Africa and the EPI communication unit to convey essential messages around routine vaccination in French and Arabic across 13 provinces

# First national advocacy plans

developed for Chad and Senegal

# 14 million+

people reached with our campaign hashtags #StaySafeAfrica and #RestonsPrudents

# 109

articles published by Speak Up Africa's Media Fellowship network



## IMMUNIZATION FORUM

In December 2022, Dakar hosted the Forum for Immunization and Polio Eradication in Africa. The objective of the event was to re-engage heads of state on the Addis Ababa Declaration on Immunization, to build momentum for immunization and polio eradication, and to encourage support from policy makers across the continent to strengthen policies and funding for immunization. SpeakUpAfrica joined and supported the forum to encourage action from more than 180 civil society organizations across 10 countries.

## IMMUNIZATION MEDIA FELLOWSHIP

During African Vaccination Week in April 2022, we launched a Media Fellowship with Faso Check to help journalists from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Senegal, and Chad report even more informatively around immunization topics. In 2022, 109 articles were produced by our Media Fellows.

*I call on all African Heads of State and Government to renew their commitment to the implementation of the objectives of the Addis Ababa Declaration. I also appeal to national actors, health professionals, local elected officials, religious and traditional leaders, members of civil society and the private sector, who all have a role to play in raising awareness and helping to keep immunization at the heart of the family agenda.*

**H.E. MACKY SALL**

President of Senegal



## GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Investing in global health research and development is critical to our ability to defeat existing and future threats. Yet, even though Africa accounts for 15% of the global population and 25% of the global disease burden, the region only produces about 2% of the world's research output.

We are advising government leaders on policies that will support research to solve current and future health threats. We are also working to elevate the importance of global health research and development on political agendas, with an eye on securing sustainable, long-term financing for these efforts. To do this, we are enlisting civil society organizations to join us in advocating for more funding and research in the region. At the same time, we are working, via the African Voices of Science campaign, with trusted African scientists to enhance their communication capacities so they can better advocate for innovation, local manufacturing production, local demand generation and regulatory harmonization. We are also working with countries to operationalize the African Medicines Agency which aims to ensure that medical products are affordable, accessible, safe, effective and of good quality.

2022 marked the second year of our African Young Innovators for Health Award and our Women Innovators Incubator program, developed to facilitate increased health innovation among young researchers and entrepreneurs, and address the additional barriers women face in taking their business ideas from concept to implementation.

The inclusive participation of women in digital health will also be critical to achieve universal health coverage. For this reason, in 2022 we launched the African Women in Digital Health (AWIDH) as part of Africa CDC Digital transformation Strategy movement, to bring together stakeholders from various sectors, including digital, gender and global health, to eliminate the gender-related digital divide and bolster women's leadership and engagement in digital health.

## OUR IMPACT

### 100

people engaged on the issue of engaging youth in efforts to achieve UHC

Launch of the **first network** dedicated to digital health in West Africa on the occasion of the 75th session of the General Health Assembly (RESAF), **which now regroups 20 members**

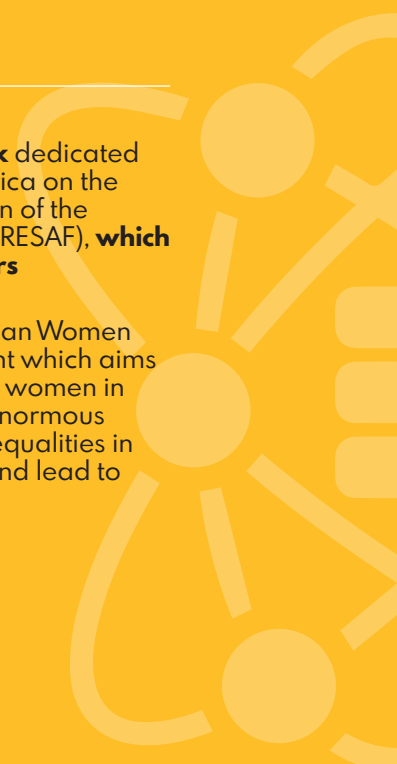
### 430,000+

potential reach of African Voices of Science program on social media

Launch of the AWIDH (African Women in Digital Health) movement which aims to highlight the inclusion of women in digital health and create enormous opportunities to reduce inequalities in access to health services and lead to inclusive growth

### 20

articles published during 2022 covering Speak Up Africa's work on Global Health Research & Development, nine of which were produced by Media Fellows



## WOMEN INNOVATORS INCUBATOR AND AFRICA YOUNG INNOVATORS FOR HEALTH AWARD

The Africa Young Innovators for Health Award and Women Innovators Incubator are led by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) and Speak Up Africa.

The Award focuses on supporting young healthcare entrepreneurs across Africa with opportunities to develop their business ideas and advance promising solutions to improve the continent's healthcare systems.

The Incubator aims to bolster women-led innovation in Africa, specifically in science, to help address some of the most pressing healthcare challenges in Africa.

Participants in these initiatives were awarded with financial support, a three-month business mentorship, media training, expert advice on IP protection and access to a network of experts.

This year, awardees were appointed mentors from organizations such as Ecobank and ADN Strategy, and had the opportunity to showcase their innovations at the Geneva Health Forum 2022 and participate in a high-level panel discussion on *"Innovating for Better Health: Supporting Young Innovators through IP"* for World IP Day.

The awardees also showcased their innovations in the media, and were featured by CNN's Inside Africa, the BBC's Accelerating Health podcast and STEM platform Wired Up Africa, among others.





## DIGITAL HEALTH NETWORK

On 23 May, Speak Up Africa launched a regional Digital Health Network in francophone West Africa together with Transform Health and the Baobab Institute. The goal of the network is to bring together players in the health and digital ecosystem, establish a governance framework, and encourage governments to better manage and invest more in universal health coverage.

The network has been endorsed by Mr. Gaspard Datonji, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Digital and Digitalization in Benin; Dr. Ousmane Ly, Digital Health Expert, Mali; Dr. Ibrahima Khalil Dia, Head of Digital Health Department, Ministry of Health and Social Action, Senegal.

*Today, we urgently need doctors to get acquainted with digital tools. It is essential that they are informed and trained.*

**DR. IBRAHIMA KHALIL DIA**

Head of Digital Health Department, Ministry of Health and Social Action, Senegal

*It is necessary to ensure that the objectives of the network are shared in addition to raising awareness among stakeholders on the desired impact. We must also ensure that we place the patient at the heart of our actions.*

**MR. GASPARD DATONJI**

Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Digital and Digitalization in Benin

*We need to set up rules and channels to secure sharing of our data. It is important that we consider hosting data on our continent through our own systems, without having use of solutions such as 'Two-Cloud'(DHS2).*

**DR OUSMANE LY**

Digital health expert, Mali

## THE AFRICAN MEDICINES AGENCY TREATY ALLIANCE (AMATA)

The African Medicines Agency Treaty Alliance (AMATA) is a multi-stakeholder organization whose aim is to enable access to quality, safe and efficacious medicines and technologies for a healthy Africa. In 2022, we joined other founding members of AMATA in welcoming the decision to nominate Rwanda as the host country of the African Medicines Agency headquarters and Secretariat.

## FORUM GALIEN

In December 2022, for the fifth edition of the Forum Galien Afrique, Speak Up Africa convened a panel on the theme of 'Young people facing the challenges of universal health coverage: from investment to equitable access to healthcare.'

*Young people have a say in health decision-making processes. If we want to build a sustainable future and ensure inclusive health systems, their participation is essential because they are the leaders of tomorrow.*

### AMINATA BADIANE THIOYE

Communication and advocacy manager at the National Youth Alliance for Reproductive Health and FP (ANJSRPF)

*For inclusive, quality and adequate health care, it is necessary to change the paradigm in terms of research and innovation policies. It is only by capitalizing on the potential of women in terms of research and innovation that we will be able to better identify the specific health needs of women and provide innovative solutions.*

### MARIE CHANTAL UMUNYANA

CEO Umubyeyi Elevate, recipient of the Women Innovators Incubator program

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC HEALTH IN AFRICA (CPHIA)

At the second CPHIA conference in December held in Kigali, Rwanda, Speak Up Africa – together with its partners Amazon Web Services, Digital Health Network, Intrahealth, PATH Qhala, and UNICEF – launched the African Women in Digital Health movement (AWiDH).

By bringing together stakeholders from various sectors, including digital, gender and global health, the movement aims to eliminate the gender-related digital divide and bolster women's leadership and engagement in digital health.

*Today women represent only 30% of researchers and innovators in Africa, while they represent more than 50% of the general population. The African Women in Digital Health movement will help reverse this trend and break down the barriers that prevent women from fully participating in digital health. It is important to invest in capacity building in leadership and innovation for women in digital health in order to guarantee that the specific health needs of women and young girls are taken into account.*

### DR MAÏMOUNA DIOP LY

Senior Public Health Policy and Sanitation and Financing Advisor at Speak Up Africa

## AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO HEALTH

Africa's preventable and treatable diseases continue to be a major obstacle to economic growth in affected nations. Africa's health challenges cannot be addressed in isolation because they are complex and interlinked. Speak Up Africa has always advocated a holistic approach to addressing Africa's health challenges, including people, the environment, and the economy.

## OUR IMPACT

# More than 350

organizations and individuals pledged their support for the 'March to Kigali' to mark World NTD Day 2022 by calling on leaders to prioritize the elimination of malaria and NTDs ahead of the Kigali Summit on malaria and NTDs and showcase integration across the two disease areas

# 1,273

social media engagements recorded for March to Kigali campaign

# Two decrees

were signed by the Ministry of Health in Guinea and Senegal for the integration of malaria and NTD data reviews

## NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES AND MALARIA INTEGRATION

Africa carries the heaviest burden for malaria and nearly eight in ten (79%) of African nations are co-endemic for at least five Neglected Tropical Diseases. Our challenge is to make better progress on tackling malaria and NTDs together, as multi-disease approaches are known to work.

In June 2022, Speak Up Africa attended the Kigali Summit on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases, which took place alongside the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The March to Kigali was a key awareness-raising initiative in the build-up to the event, bringing together civil society and the wider malaria and NTD communities - through the existing Zero Malaria Starts with Me and No to NTDs initiatives - to advocate for a common goal.

Speak Up Africa delivered a range of events across the continent to drive collaborative action against malaria and NTDs. This included a workshop held in Côte d'Ivoire to increase synergy between national stakeholders across the two disease areas and strengthen mobilization of funds to support these efforts, bringing together representatives from the National Assembly, the Ministry of Health, NGOs and civil society. Speak Up Africa's Executive Director Yacine Djibo also joined other key decision-makers and health sector experts in a Twitter chat ahead of the summit on 'How to eliminate malaria and NTDs in Africa'.

*The March to Kigali campaign calls on world leaders for a multi sectoral and cross-disease approach to fighting malaria and NTDs, an approach that has already been proven effective in both Guinea and Senegal.*

**DR NDÈYE MBACKÉ KANE**

NTD National Programme Coordinator, Senegal

## ONE HEALTH

One Health is an integrated approach that highlights the relationship between the health of humans, animals, and the wider environment. On 3 November each year, we celebrate World One Health Day. In 2022, Speak Up Africa teamed up with the High Council for Global Health Security (HCNSSM) in Senegal to raise awareness of One Health among civil society and the private sector, along with technical and financial partners.

Our theme for 2022 was ‘Promoting worldwide efforts to bring together all disciplines of human, animal and environmental health’.

We supported the development of an advocacy strategy with the technical secretary of one health Senegal for the institutionalisation of the one health. In this strategy, we highlight the gaps in the various sectoral departments on the consideration of integration, also the importance of having an effective collaboration between these different decision-making bodies: Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Livestock and the ministries responsible for human safety in general.

Along with concrete actions of advocacy and strategic communication with the inter-orders of doctors, civil societies, sectoral ministries, and various partners, we released a call to action in favour of a presidential decree that aims at improving efficiency and impact of the integration interventions. Through this decree, the Secretariat would like the human, animal and environmental health fields to be integrated for better management of public health issues. Indeed, the decree would allow the High Council to have its own budget to roll out its strategic plan. The objective is to ensure that the sectoral policy letters of the ministries take charge of the “health security” dimension.

*It is inconceivable, from now on, to only talk about human health. World One Health Day illustrates the importance of working in synergy with all sectors, at all scales. We are pioneers, in Senegal, in taking into account the One Health approach in public policies, but there are many challenges to be met, particularly at the operational level, in terms of community engagement and funding.*

**DR ADJARATOU DIAKHOU NDIAYE**

Permanent Secretary of the High Council, Senegal

## OUR BOARD.



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BOURGALT**  
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# OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS.

## FUNDING PARTNERS



## STRATEGIC PARTNERS



## MEDIA PARTNERS



*2022 was another year of significant progress for Speak Up Africa. As we continue to work towards our 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, I want to thank our partners and everyone at Speak Up Africa for your tireless commitment to improving the lives of people across the African continent. It's only thanks to the strength of our relationships and the dedication of everyone involved that we can continue to drive real, sustainable change in Africa.*

**YACINE BARRO BOURGAULT**

Board Chair, Speak Up Africa



*In loving memory of our friend and  
champion of the fight against malaria.*

EL HADJ DIOP



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