

Onchocerciasis

LINES OF IMPACT

Lymphatic Filariasis

Schistosomiasis

Trachoma

Soil-transmitted helminthiasis

NO NEGLECTED
TO TROPICAL
DISEASES



SpeakUpAfrica.



NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a group of destructive mostly communicable diseases. They affect the world's poorest people and are especially common in tropical areas, where people have little access to clean water or proper ways to dispose of human waste.

Women and children living in unsanitary conditions run a much higher risk of contracting at least one NTD. Although these devastating and dangerous diseases can be prevented and treated, they continue to cause serious disfigurement and other long-term disabilities that create obstacles to education, employment, economic growth and overall development.



THE NTD BURDEN

1.5

*billion people are affected
by NTDs worldwide*

50%

*Nearly 50% of the global
NTD burden occurs in
Africa*

0.6%

*Only 0.6% of global
healthcare funding goes to
controlling NTDs.*

LINES OF IMPACT

NTDs are described as neglected diseases because the people who suffer from them lack platforms and the ability to make their voices heard to ensure that NTDs are made a public health priority. Through the “Lines of Impact” program, Speak Up Africa aims to increase the quantity and quality of information, articles and other materials on the subject of NTDs by collaborating with African journalists on crosscutting themes.

WORLD NTD DAY

The first World NTD Day, held on 30 January 2020, marked the kick-off of a decisive year for the fight against NTDs. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic was a game changer in terms of advocacy and strategic communication on NTDs. Now, more than ever, public health and public-health investments are recognized as a priority, however, global attention tends to focus on the latest disease rather than on the ones that have impacted us the longest. It is therefore all the more necessary to raise awareness and create a sense of urgency around the elimination of NTDs.



30 January 2021
**WORLD
NTD
DAY** NEGLECTED
TROPICAL
DISEASES



THE “LINES OF IMPACT” JOURNALISTS “





JESSICA AHEDOR

Ghana

Jessica Ahedor is a freelance science/health Journalist in Ghana. She worked for First Digital TV/ GNTV as a health reporter, Lead News Anchor, Producer, and Programme Host for 6 years. In 2019, Jessica corresponded for West Africa Democracy Radio- Dakar Senegal, she is the Gender and Health correspondent,

Pan African Vision–Washington DC, Scientific African Magazine–Rwanda and a co-founder of Science Journalism Ghana. Jessica also reported from the African continent and abroad - Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Togo, Gambia, Ethiopia, Canada, and the UK on myriad of health and environment issues. In 2020 she was selected fellow as part of CAPOOP Media Fellowship Program by Speak-Up Africa to increase volume and the quality of WASH coverage in Africa.



MAIMOUNA BANGOURA

Guinea

Maimouna Bangoura is a Guinean journalist, she started as a technician reporter for Continental FM radio in 2008. She then became a journalist host at Groupe Evasion Guinea in 2011. In 2016, she won the Award of the best health magazine CFI. In 2018 she founded the laguinéenne.info news site.



YANDÉ DIOP

Senegal

Yandé Diop is a journalist with a master's degree in journalism and communications, and a member of the association of journalists in health, population and development (AJSPD). Yandé Diop was born in Kaolack, Senegal, where she completed her primary and secondary education. She has worked in the media since completing her journalism studies in 2010. She made her debut in the written press, with Senegalese media group Walfadjri, before joining the Promo consulting group, which runs the «Rewmi» newspaper and radio station, for four years, and then the «Libération» daily newspaper, where she spent the majority of her career in the media sphere. She recently embarked on a career in the online press as Editor in Chief of the Thieydakar.net general news website and promotor of the Sante221.com site, focusing on health issues in Senegal.



HAROUNA DRABO

Burkina Faso

With a background in communications and international relations, Harouna Drabo is a fact-checking journalist at Fasocheck, an editorial initiative dedicated to the practice and promotion of fact-checking in Burkina Faso. His passion for blogging earned him the title of best blogger in Burkina Faso in 2019 for his publications on water and sanitation issues. Focusing on public development policies and accountability issues, Harouna Drabo has been an independent contributor to the treatment of socio-political news from Burkina and the sub-region for various media outlets since 2015.



ADJOVI NADIA EDODJI

Togo

Adjovi Nadia Edodji was born in Togo in 1995. After earning an undergraduate degree in sociology at the University of Lomé, she learned journalism on the job. Since 2018, she has worked as an editor in a private daily newspaper in Lomé.



ALAIN TOSSOUNON

Benin

Alain Tossounon holds a Master of Journalism & Media and has been a journalist for some fifteen years. Editor-in-Chief then Editorial Director of a weekly newspaper specializing in decentralization and local governance, «Le Municipal», he earned a number of certificates in water management, natural resources and sanitation before becoming a senior reporter on the themes of water,

hygiene and basic sanitation (WASH). Working on these concerns over the past few years, he has covered key events, including the 1st World Sanitation Forum in Mumbai, India in 2009, the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille in 2012 and the 7th Daegu Forum in South Korea in 2015. Today, he has built a solid reputation, winning numerous awards, both in Benin and internationally, including the prestigious WASH Media Award in 2012 in Stockholm, for his publications on water, sanitation and hygiene. Alain is also known as an advocate for issues linked to water, hygiene and sanitation. He currently leads the West Africa WASH Journalists Network (WASH-JN), which includes 15 countries in West Africa and Cameroon.



ABDULLAHI TSANNI

Nigeria

Abdullahi Tsanni est un journaliste scientifique basé
Abdullahi Tsanni is a science journalist based in Abuja, Nigeria. He has reported on science, health, agriculture, and biotechnology issues in Nigeria for publications including *Nature*, *AllAfrica*, *Cornell Alliance for Science*, *Nigeria Health Watch*, and *African Newspage*. Abdullahi has interviewed top scientists across sub-Saharan

Africa, detailing stories about their research, workspace, and scientific enterprise on the continent. His story on how rancorous debates about genetically modified organisms affect public sentiments in Nigeria won the 2019 Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa Science Media Award in the print/online category. He works as a volunteer with Science Communication Hub Nigeria and African Science Literacy Network, helping with communications and providing input on media partnerships. He has a degree in biochemistry and is a prospective master's student in science communication at Imperial College London.



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ABOUT SPEAK UP AFRICA

Headquartered in Dakar, Senegal, Speak Up Africa is a strategic communications and advocacy organization dedicated to catalyzing leadership, enabling policy change, and increasing awareness for sustainable development in Africa. Through our platforms and relationships and with the help of our partners, we ensure that policy makers meet implementers; that solutions are showcased and that every sector – from individual citizens and civil society groups to global donors and business leaders – contributes critically to the dialogue and strives to form the blueprints for concrete action for public health and sustainable development.



SpeakUpAfrica.



THE NO TO NTDs MOVEMENT

In 2019, Speak Up Africa launched the “No to NTDs” movement, bringing together individuals, political leaders, private sector companies and civil society organizations (CSOs), to increase awareness, prioritization and national commitment to accelerate the control and elimination of NTDs in Africa. Combating NTDs and reaching all communities in need can put countries on the pathway to achieving universal health coverage. Where there is poverty, NTDs are commonly an accepted part of life. But this is not inevitable, nor should we accept it. In this sense, the campaign aims to:

1

Increase overall political engagement to NTDs to increase domestic resources for NTDs

2

Build the capacity of civil society organizations to make NTD decision-making spaces more inclusive

3

Create an enabling environment at the national level for increased prioritization of NTD elimination



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For more information, please visit www.notontds.org