



STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' VOICES AND LEADERSHIP FOR EQUITABLE HEALTH POLICIES ACROSS FRANCOPHONE AFRICA.

76

Community-based organizations supported

6

Countries of implementation

74

Women in decision-making spaces

3 500+

People reached through capacity strengthening

5

National networks



THE INITIATIVE

PUTTING WOMEN AT THE CENTER OF CHANGE

Women are central to Africa's economy, as farmers, workers, entrepreneurs... Yet they remain largely excluded from decisions that shape their lives, health, and well-being.

Changing this reality requires investing in women's agency and leadership so that health policies are grounded in their lived experiences, responsive to their needs, and reflective of their cultural contexts.

Voix EssentiELLES strengthens the meaningful engagement of women's and girls' community-based organizations in health and human rights decision-making spaces.

Launched in 2021 alongside the Generation Equality Forum, the initiative is built on the conviction that health policies can only be effective and equitable when women's voices and leadership are integrated at every level.



INTEGRATED APPROACH

THREE COMPLEMENTARY PILLARS

Together, these mechanisms build an ecosystem that enables committed leaders to emerge and translate community priorities into inclusive, lasting public policies and action.

Catalytic Fund

Direct grants to community-based organizations to fund advocacy initiatives (USD 15,000–18,000 per organization).

University of ExcELLEnce

Capacity strengthening in leadership, strategic communication, and advocacy.

Mentorship Program

Individualized coaching for women leaders to enter and influence decision-making bodies.



VOIX ESSENTIELLES EMBODIES OUR COMMITMENT TO BRINGING WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' VOICES INTO THE SPACES WHERE DECISIONS ARE MADE.

YACINE DJIBO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SPEAK UP AFRICA



THEMATIC EXTENSION

Voix EssentiELLES | Women's Leadership Against Malaria

Drawing on the Voix EssentiELLES model, Speak Up Africa launched a dedicated malaria thematic extension in 2025, with support from the Global Fund.

The extension supports 16 women-led organizations across Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Democratic Republic of Congo to dismantle gender barriers in the fight against malaria, strengthen their presence in decision-making spaces, and advance targeted advocacy.

REGIONAL PRESENCE

Rooted across Francophone Africa

Building on a successful first phase in Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso, the initiative expanded in 2025 to Togo, Benin, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

COUNTRIES OF IMPLEMENTATION:

Senegal | Côte d'Ivoire | Burkina Faso | Togo | Benin | DRC

6 KEY THEMATIC AREAS:



Malaria



Gender-Based Violence



Tuberculosis



Sexual and Reproductive Health



HIV/AIDS



Climate Change