



## GLOBAL AUTISM PUBLIC HEALTH (GAPH)

Autism Speaks is committed to helping meet the needs of children and adults affected by autism in underserved communities at home and abroad. We partner with families, professionals, advocacy groups and governments in more than 70 countries to better understand the global issues surrounding autism and to enable practical and effective delivery of care.

### GAPH INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

#### Innovation in service delivery

In partnership with the *World Health Organization* (WHO), we help develop urgently needed resources for families and care providers in low-resource areas.

#### Epidemiology research

Autism Speaks works closely with partners including the *U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC) to investigate and measure autism prevalence in diverse populations.

#### Guiding policy and research priorities

In collaboration with the *National Academy of Medicine*, *NIH*, *CDC* and other agencies and organizations, we are giving the autism community a voice in health policies and federal research priorities.

The support of the global autism community makes this vital work possible.



Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the lifespan, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of autism spectrum disorder; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions.



[AutismSpeaks.org/Science](http://AutismSpeaks.org/Science)



**Transforming Lives at Home and Abroad**



# **AUTISM SPEAKS®** GLOBAL AUTISM PUBLIC HEALTH

## **Empowering World Leaders**

Autism Speaks works with passionate partners worldwide to advance their work through a combination of technical expertise, diplomatic connections and modest funding. Our global partners include:

### ***The United Nations***

UN missions from every continent have joined us in making autism a global priority by adopting groundbreaking resolutions.

### ***The World Health Organization***

The WHO has worked closely with Autism Speaks to commit national health ministries to implement evidence-based, culturally appropriate autism services for underserved communities.

### ***The Advocacy Leadership Network***

Hosted by Autism Speaks, autism advocacy organizations and government health ministries from over 40 countries discuss research and advance UN and WHO resolutions on autism services and human rights.

### ***World Focus on Autism***

Since 2008, this powerful network of First Spouses and other dignitaries has fostered the adoption of GAPH programs worldwide.

### ***GAPH Regional Networks***

Serving as a technical adviser and supporter, Autism Speaks helps create regional awareness, training and program networks throughout the world. These include:

**Southeast Europe Autism Network**, with representatives from the ministries of health and family/stakeholder groups in nine countries

**Red Espectro Autista Latinoamérica**, a collaboration between researchers and service providers in six countries of Central and South America and the Caribbean

## **Developing Global Solutions**

More than 85 percent of the world's autism community lives in low- and middle-income countries, where many face extreme stigma and few have access to autism services and support.

Working with the UN and WHO, we help nations create self-sustaining public health programs and research networks to address autism. As facilitators, technical advisors and co-funders, we strive to:

- Engage local families and community stakeholders
- Amplify our partners' investments in autism programs
- Support the delivery of sustainable and effective services
- Launch research that is more practical to perform abroad

### ***GAPH's Collaborative Initiatives Include:***

#### ***Parent Skills Training***

An affordable and culturally adaptable training program developed in collaboration with the WHO to foster the development and social skills of children with autism and other developmental disabilities

#### ***Autism Researchers without Borders***

An international partnership of highly skilled volunteers, including clinicians, researchers and graduate students

#### ***Affordable and practical screening and diagnosis tools***

Scientifically validated and royalty-free autism screening and diagnostic methods that can use mobile-health technology and provide web-based information for research

#### ***System of Care Tool Kit***

Best-practice methods and programs for improving service development and policy-making in low-resource regions

## **GAPH at Home**

Through GAPH, Autism Speaks plays a major role in guiding public health research and policies in the United States to ensure that they meet the needs of our large and growing autism community. This includes work with:

***The CDC*** to design and support research that improves detection of autism and produces more-accurate estimates of its prevalence across the nation

***The National Academy of Medicine*** to identify and address gaps in programs and policies affecting children and adults with disabilities involving complex health and education needs

***The Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health*** to build the Autism Pathways Data Portal, which enables parents, researchers and the public to access a wealth of information on autism services and family experiences

***Minority, immigrant, rural and other underserved communities*** to improve access to effective and appropriate autism services

***Through GAPH, Autism Speaks is transforming tens of millions of lives.***

