TOGETHER FOR GIRLS
Ending the Epidemic of Violence Against Children

Together for Girls is a global public-private partnership dedicated to ending violence against children, particularly sexual violence against girls.

Violence against children touches virtually every community—from rich and poor to urban and rural. It’s a human rights and public health problem of vast proportions, which leads to severe short-and long-term health, economic and social consequences. Growing evidence shows, however, that a multi-sector, coordinated response reduces violence against children and helps keep children safe from harm.

OUR APPROACH

In partnership with national governments, civil society and the private sector, Together for Girls is changing the global and local discourse on children and violence, increasing our understanding of the issue and mobilizing support for country-driven efforts for change. Collectively, our partners combine their unique strengths to drive a coordinated and robust response and enable the following:

1. National surveys and data to document the magnitude, nature and impact of physical, emotional, and sexual violence against children to inform government leaders, communities, civil society and donors.

2. Evidence-based coordinated policy and program actions in countries to address issues identified through the surveys, including legal and policy reform, improved services for children who have experienced violence, and prevention programs.

3. Global advocacy and public awareness efforts to draw attention to the problem and promote evidence-based solutions.

VIOLANCE AGAINST CHILDREN SURVEY FINDINGS

Our partnership is currently active in more than 20 countries, including Cambodia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Malawi, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Key findings from our country partners’ national-level Violence Against Children Surveys include:

- More than 50% of children experienced physical violence prior to age 18.
- In many countries, more than 25% of girls’ first sexual intercourse was unwanted.
- Childhood violence increases risk of negative health conditions, including HIV/STIs, unwanted pregnancy, pregnancy complications, alcohol use, suicide and depression.
Building on the data and process established through the Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS), each country is taking action to prevent and respond to this epidemic. Together for Girls’ partners support countries to develop and implement a comprehensive response that incorporates both prevention and support services for children who experience violence. Almost half of the countries in the partnership have launched their VACS reports and are transitioning to national actions.

### Examples of Country-Led Interventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERVENTION TYPE</th>
<th>RESULTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH</td>
<td><strong>Zimbabwe</strong> provides medical and psychosocial services for children who have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse, including ARVs for HIV prevention.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCIAL SERVICES</td>
<td><strong>Tanzania</strong> is rolling out district-level child protection teams. Teams are led by social workers and include teachers, nurses, police, magistrates and village leaders who are working together to protect children from the village to the district capital.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUSTICE &amp; POLICE</td>
<td><strong>Swaziland</strong> is training the justice sector on prosecuting offenders and setting up child-friendly courts as well as post-rape care services through one-stop centres.</td>
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<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td><strong>In Kenya the Lwala Community Alliance supports a mentorship program for girls both in- and out-of-school to address issues such as early marriage and gender-based violence and encourage girls out of school to reenter.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY</td>
<td><strong>Swaziland</strong> is engaging religious leaders from eight major faith groups to address violence against children in their communities.</td>
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### OUR PARTNERS

![Unicef](unicef.png)  ![BD](BD.png)  ![Canada](Canada.png)  ![UNAIDS](UNAIDS.png)  ![CDC Foundation](CDC.png)

![Cummins](Cummins.png)  ![UNFPA](UNFPA.png)  ![UN Women](UN Women.png)  ![USAID](USAID.png)  ![World Health Organization](WHO.png)

### JOIN US

If everyone does their part—from the public to private sectors and from elders to youth—together, we can address this epidemic and make a difference in the lives of millions of children. To learn more about Together for Girls, visit us at [www.togetherforgirls.org](http://www.togetherforgirls.org) or e-mail info@togetherforgirls.org.