



Together for girls

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Using data as our guide, the Together for Girls (TfG) partnership aims to raise awareness, promote evidence-based solutions and galvanize coordinated action to end violence against boys and girls, with a special focus on sexual violence against girls.

Founded in 2009, TfG is a partnership between national governments, UN entities and private sector organizations, working at the intersection of violence against children (VAC) and violence against women (VAW). We bring together multiple sectors and actors in a comprehensive and holistic approach to violence prevention and response.

We pay particular attention to adolescent girls because they often remain invisible or fall through the cracks in the development of policies and programs to end VAC and VAW.

We also recognize that boys experience violence, and that focusing on them is critical not only because their rights and well-being are equally important, but also because they play a crucial role in breaking cycles of violence.

The evidence is clear: There is strength in numbers. Only by working together (and by ensuring large-scale gender-transformative action) can we break longstanding cycles of violence to create a safer and more equitable world for all.

PARTNERS



DATA . ACTION . ADVOCACY .

To break the cycle of violence.

TfG partners are global leaders in development and violence prevention and response, and each one contributes unique expertise and skills to strengthen our collective impact at national, regional and global levels. Our three-pronged approach includes:

DATA

National Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS), led by CDC as part of the Together for Girls partnership, document the magnitude, nature and impact of physical, emotional and sexual violence. The VACS examine violence against girls and boys, providing important information to government leaders, communities, civil society and donors.

ACTION

Led by national governments and UNICEF, this pillar focuses on evidence-based coordinated policy and program actions to address issues identified through the surveys. Actions include legal and policy reforms, improved services for girls and boys who have experienced violence and prevention programs.

ADVOCACY

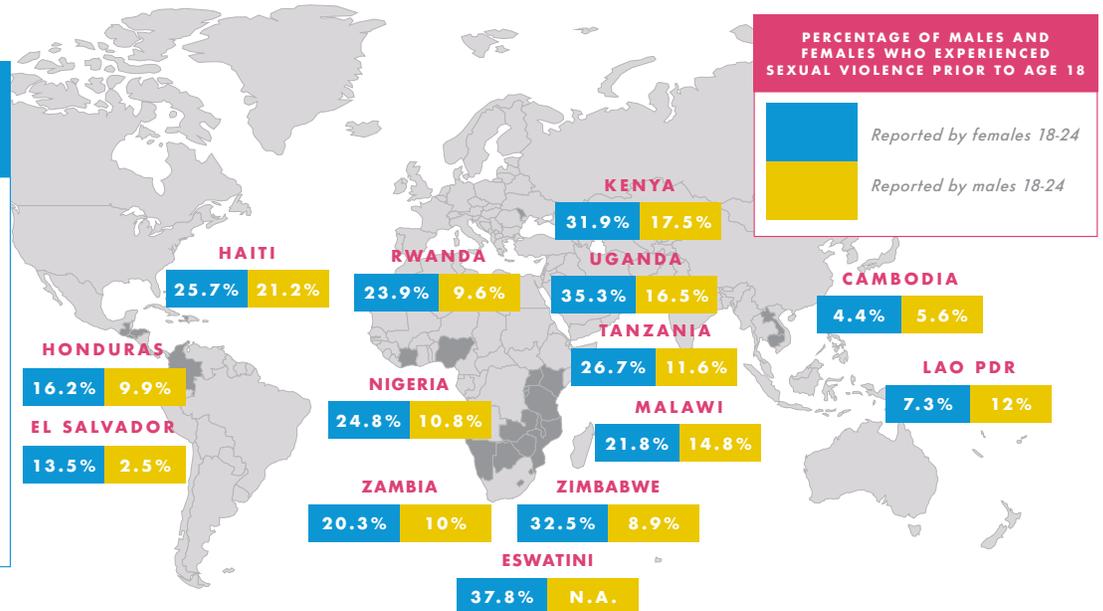
The Together for Girls partnership launches global advocacy and public awareness efforts that bring attention to the problem and promote evidence-based solutions. Through our communications activities, we provide a platform for survivors, young people and advocates to share their stories, and come together to drive change in their communities and globally.

DATA

Our partnership is currently active in **more than 20 countries** in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe. VACS have generated data for approximately **10% of the world's population under age 25**, helping advance understanding and policy for both VAC and VAW. Key findings from the Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) include:

SEXUAL VIOLENCE BEFORE AGE 18 ACROSS TFG COUNTRIES

- In many countries, more than 25% of girls' first sexual intercourse was physically forced or coerced.
- Violence against girls increases their risk of HIV, unintended pregnancy, pregnancy complications, alcohol use, suicide and depression.
- Violence against boys increases their risk of HIV, alcohol use, depression, unsafe sex and later perpetration of violence against an intimate partner.



ACTION

- To date, **nine countries** have developed comprehensive, multi-sectoral responses.
- The Government of Tanzania, with support from UNICEF and the Government of Canada, expanded child protection teams nationally to 47 Local Government Authorities with more than 700,000 children reached.
- In response to data findings on violence in the home and with support from UNICEF and the Government of Canada, Cambodia developed a national strategic framework on positive parenting to prevent violence and unnecessary family separation.
- Malawi government partners, with support from UNICEF, trained more than 21,000 children (over 75% girls) in empowerment and self-defense. Preliminary data shows that girls' risk for rape was reduced by nearly 50%.
- In 2016, with WHO's leadership, TFG partners worked with other organizations to develop INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children. INSPIRE details a group of strategies based on the best available evidence and with the greatest potential to reduce violence against children, and is a framework to guide national efforts.

ADVOCACY

- In 2013, TFG launched *Safe*, the first digital magazine showcasing the people, organizations and countries that work every day to break cycles of violence that impact children, adolescents and women.
- In 2016, TFG created the Every Hour Matters (EHM) campaign to increase awareness of the critical timeline for post-rape care. The campaign continues to expand its reach with 11 global partners and materials translated into four languages. In 2017, TFG worked with youth advocates from Kenya and Uganda to develop the EHM Youth Engagement Toolkit.
- Collectively, the TFG partnership has approximately 13 million Twitter followers from more than 50 countries.
- TFG and its partners successfully supported advocacy for the inclusion of targets on VAC and VAW in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- To raise awareness, highlight solutions and amplify the voices of survivors, TFG hosted high-level events around key moments, including the UN General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women, International Day of the Girl and Women Deliver.



JOIN US

Together, we can create a world where every child, adolescent and young person is safe, protected and thriving. To learn more about Together for Girls, visit us at togetherforgirls.org, follow us @Together4Girls or e-mail info@togetherforgirls.org.