We are Together for Girls
I. Who we are
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Violence against children and adolescents is a gross violation of human rights and is tragically widespread — and sexual violence is a notably taboo, and often hidden form of violence.

The Issue

Violence against children and adolescents is a gross violation of human rights and is tragically widespread — and sexual violence is a notably taboo, and often hidden form of violence.

Around **1 in 9 boys** and **1 in 4 girls** across the globe experience sexual violence before their eighteenth birthday.

Childhood sexual violence is often **shrouded in silence** and shame.

**Children of every age**, race, ethnicity, caste, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity are impacted.

It can happen anywhere—in homes, schools, places of worship, sports, and online.

It has **far-reaching consequences** and devastating long-term effects for individuals and communities.

Together for girls
PART I

Who we are
We envision a world where every child and adolescent is safe, protected, and thriving.
Together for Girls is a global partnership working to end sexual violence against children and adolescents.
We are a partnership.

We unite and connect actors that often do not work together, including national governments, UN entities, the private sector, civil society, and survivors of childhood sexual violence.
OUR MODEL

Through **data** and **advocacy**, Together for Girls drives **action** to break cycles of violence and ensure **prevention, healing, and justice**.

**Prevention**
Prevention to protect current and future generations.

**Healing**
Healing, including gender-responsive, age-friendly services for victims, survivors, and their families.

**Justice**
Justice for survivors and accountability for perpetrators and the complicit.
We are a partnership working with 23 countries

TfG partner countries that have completed or are in the process of completing a Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS)

- Botswana
- Cambodia
- Colombia
- Côte d’Ivoire
- El Salvador
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Lao PDR
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Moldova
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- United States of America
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
Joining forces with leading organizations and agencies

UN Partners:

- unicef
- World Health Organization
- Pan American Health Organization
- World Health Organization
- UN Women
- UNFPA
- UNAIDS
- UNICEF
- WHO
- PAHO
- UN Women
● Generate and use data and evidence to guide the way

● Connect interventions to end violence against children and violence against women

● Unite different actors and disciplines to address a multi-faceted problem, leveraging decades of learning in sexual violence prevention, child protection, and gender-based violence

● Center the voices of survivors in order to build political will and shape policy agendas to drive change

OUR UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION
Data

Generating quality, comprehensive data illuminates the problem of violence against children and informs solutions.
To solve a problem of this magnitude, we need to first understand it.
Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (VACS)

- The single **largest global data source** for violence against children worldwide
- National household surveys **led by national governments**, with technical assistance from the CDC as part of the Together for Girls partnership
- Three countries **conducted VACS twice**

To date, Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys have been or are being carried out in **23 countries**, providing data on **12%** of the world’s children, adolescents, and youth (under age 24).
Over the last decade, the Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys have fundamentally transformed countries’ abilities to understand and address violence against children, adolescents, and youth at scale.
Topics covered in the Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys

- PHYSICAL VIOLENCE
- SEXUAL VIOLENCE
- EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE
- RISK FACTORS, DEMOGRAPHICS
- EDUCATION
- HEALTH OUTCOMES
- RISK TAKING
- HIV/AIDS TESTING BEHAVIORS
- GENDER ATTITUDES
- MENTAL HEALTH
Understanding the magnitude of sexual violence against children and adolescents

% of 18 to 24 year-olds who experienced sexual violence in childhood
Children who experience sexual violence are not getting the support and services they need

% of 18 to 24 year-olds who told someone, sought and/or received services for sexual violence, among those who experienced sexual violence prior to age 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Told someone</td>
<td>68% 41% 41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sought services</td>
<td>21% 13% 12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received services</td>
<td>18% 11% 9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Unreliable estimate, result should be interpreted with caution

- Botswana
- Kenya II
- Lesotho
Connecting partners across sectors and systems

Consequences of sexual violence

- HIV
- Mental health and suicide
- Substance abuse
- Unintended pregnancy
- School drop-out

Suicidal thoughts are more common among survivors of sexual violence

% of young women (ages 18-24) who reported suicidal ideations in the past 30 days by whether they experienced childhood sexual violence or not

among those who experienced childhood sexual violence

31%** of young women

among those who did not experience childhood sexual violence

11%** of young women

Reported thoughts of suicide

*Data from Zimbabwe II VACS  **statistically significant difference in reporting of suicidal ideations between young women who did and did not experience sexual violence in childhood
Scaling up global data collection and response

Supporting countries through the VACS process

- Working with new country partners to plan for the Violence Against Children Survey process; potential upcoming VACS include the City of Baltimore in the US, Ethiopia, and Kuwait

- Including the right stakeholders and civil society partners

- Using data to inform national action to inform prevention and response programming

The Violence Against Children and Youth Survey process
Adapting the Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys to humanitarian settings

- Together for Girls and partners developed guidance to implement a VACS in fragile and conflict-affected communities.

- The first-ever humanitarian VACS are underway in refugee settlements in Uganda and Ethiopia.
Ending violence in and through schools

- Secondary analyses of VACS data were conducted to understand violence in and around school settings.
- The research informs the efforts of governments, organizations, and other actors to foster safe school environments.

“We know schools can serve as protective spaces for children, acting as an important arena for broader social change to end violence both in and out of the classroom.”
Understanding school-related gender-based violence

We have data on violence in and around schools for 13 countries.

% of 13-24 year-olds* who experienced one or more forms of violence perpetrated by a teacher or classmate

- **female students**
  - Colombia: 19%
  - Honduras: 12%
  - Kenya II: 30%
  - Mozambique: 9%
  - Namibia: 18%
  - Nigeria: 44%

- **male students**
  - Colombia: 7%
  - Honduras: 14%
  - Kenya II: 39%
  - Mozambique: 11%
  - Namibia: 22%
  - Nigeria: 35%

*among those who ever attended primary or secondary school
Advocating for safe education

Sharing data and raising awareness on violence in school settings

- Event featured panel discussions with global leaders, experts, and youth activists

- TfG and partners launched a letter calling on global leaders to leverage the power of schools to shift gender inequitable norms to end gender-based violence by 2030

Access to safe education is a fundamental human right.
Sharing evidence-based solutions for prevention, healing, and justice

Photo courtesy of International Justice Mission
Spotlighting solutions
An actionable roadmap of evidence-based interventions

**A Breeze of Hope Foundation:** supporting survivors in Bolivia with access to services and legal assistance

**Coaching Boys into Men:** transforming harmful gender norms through sports across the US and around the world

**International Safeguards for Children in Sport:** creating standard procedures for youth-serving athletic orgs around the world
NEW: Preventing child sexual exploitation and abuse “Solutions Hub”

- A unique space where stakeholders in the CSEA prevention and response fields can use solution-based products based on **high-quality evidence and practice**

- **Facilitates increased uptake of quality knowledge** and evidence to prevent CSEA

**Human-centered.**
**Inclusive and participatory.**
**Rigorous in research.**
Advocacy
Communications and campaigns to build political will, shape policy agendas, and elevate the voices of survivors.
Shaping global and national policy agendas

In every country, VACS results have informed plans, policies, and strategies to address violence against children.

As part of the Data to Action process:

**21 countries** used VACS data to inform policy and programmatic action

**12 countries** released national action plans to end sexual violence against children, and more to come
Spotlighting national advocacy
Supporting partners to prevent and respond to violence against children and youth

Honduras launched a national campaign to promote positive social and gender norms for girls and advocate for girls’ access to education.

Colombia made meaningful commitments and took several important steps to end violence against children as it embarked on the VACS process.

Côte d’Ivoire launched a year-long campaign to help end violence against children across the country.
Amplifying solutions on a global stage

Leveraging moments to raise awareness and promote evidence-based solutions

TfG rang the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange with allies and other key partners to commemorate TfG’s 10th anniversary

Survivors of violence shared their stories during TfG’s UN Commission on the Status of Women event in 2018

Manuela Balliet, TfG advisor, presented on violence in schools in Côte d’Ivoire at SVRI 2022
Shattering the silence around sexual violence
Demanding global attention by spotlighting survivor and advocate stories

Upendo is a Tanzanian survivor-turned-activist profiled in past TfG #16Heroes campaigns

Dr. Daniela Ligiero gave a plenary session speech at Women Deliver 2019

Flovian is a photographer and one of the PEPFAR DREAMS ambassadors profiled in the 2020 Kenyan storytelling series, “Girls who Dream”

TfG and partners convened more than 1,000 adult survivors and allies around the world to elevate their voices for policy change in 2020 during a powerful virtual event in 2020
Catalyzing movements for transformational change
Survivor-led movements for prevention, healing and justice

brave movement
End Childhood Sexual Violence

A global, networked, and inclusive advocacy movement of survivors and allies fighting for an end to childhood sexual violence.

keep kids safe

The Brave Movement’s sister movement in the United States aimed at ensuring a comprehensive national response to ending sexual violence against children and adolescents.

“We see the movement as a speakerphone for my voice to be heard at its loudest speaking out against sexual violence.”

—Janet Aguti, Brave member

We are more powerful together
brave movement
End Childhood Sexual Violence

- Developing **survivor-centered national calls to action**
- Calling for **bold and transformative action** from G7 leaders
- **Mobilizing billions** for prevention, healing and justice
- Ensuring a **child-rights approach** to end-to-end encryption
- **Abolishing statutes of limitations** around the world

“We must be brave so that children can be safe.”
18 National Calls to Action

created by survivor networks demanding action by national governments and international organizations

The Global Survivors’ Action Summit

in April united Brave Movement Survivors and Allies for the first time to align demands to end childhood sexual violence

The 9 June Global Day of Action

activated thousands of global survivors to put up purple commemorative plaques and host rallies worldwide to remember survivors of childhood sexual violence
Brisa de Angulo succeeded in her longtime work to abolish statutes of limitation (SOL) in Bolivia. The public outcry surrounding the case pressured the Bolivian Government to abolish SOLs.

G7 Leaders committed, for the first time ever, to address online and offline childhood sexual violence. The Brave G7 Survivors Mobilization Task Force launched a Call to Action, a scorecard ranking G7 countries and a petition signed by 81,000+ globally.

SAGE Member Brisa de Angulo succeeded in her longtime work to abolish statutes of limitation (SOL) in Bolivia. The Brave Movement launched its #StandWithBrisa campaign. The public outcry surrounding the case pressured the Bolivian Government to abolish SOLs.

Elevating our ambition—from pennies to billions. The Brave Movement is demanding governments invest billions in domestic resource mobilization and official development assistance (ODA) for solutions to end childhood sexual violence at scale.
Keeping Kids Safe

During COVID-19 and beyond

- Led by a group of more than **70 adult survivors** of child sexual abuse, leaders and national leading organizations preventing childhood sexual violence

- Collective advocacy efforts contributed to **US government action** to protect children

- Fighting for urgent action for **prevention, healing, and justice**

Keep Kids Safe protests during the Global Day of Action against Sexual Violence in Childhood in front of the White House (top); Keep Kids Safe survivor leaders pose with photos of themselves as children (right); a tweet from the Biden administration acknowledging Child Abuse Prevention Month (left)
Demanding federal action with the U.S. National Blueprint

- A roadmap for swift and decisive government action to keep kids safe from sexual violence through comprehensive prevention, healing, and justice initiatives.

- Includes executive and legislative recommendations for immediate steps to end sexual violence.
Action

Galvanizing a coordinated, multisectoral response to bring solutions to scale and ensure violence prevention, healing, and justice.
Igniting the “Power of Data to Action”

Research after over a decade of Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys shows that:

- The survey data is the foundation for **driving national action** across sectors.

- **Strong government leadership** and coordination across sectors is needed for the development of plans and policies to end violence.

- All areas of VAC **need more funding**.

“**The VACS process makes** invaluable, multifaceted and **long-term contributions** to preventing and responding to violence against children and youth and gender-based violence.”
Igniting the “Power of Data to Action”

The analysis of the views of 225 stakeholders across 20 VACS countries concludes that:

**VACS data** provide the foundation for developing interventions that work and measuring progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Target 5.2 and Target 16.2.

“VACS demonstrate that preventing and responding to violence against children and youth and gender-based violence is a knowable, solvable problem.”

**Target 5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

**Target 16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

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Driving broad, lasting impact

Results from a review of the VACS “Data to Action” process in 20 countries show that countries integrated VACS results into broader child-related policies including:

- Improving child safety laws or regulations: 13 countries
- Banning corporal punishment: 10 countries
- Including VACS indicators in national statistics: 5 countries
- Banning child marriage: 9 countries
- Launching new initiatives addressing the safety of girls: 5 countries
Connecting data to action through INSPIRE

Data to Action workshops use VACS data and the INSPIRE framework to drive the coordination that is critical to action and success.
Spotlighting national action: Colombia

After Colombia’s groundbreaking work leading the VACS process, the country took a number of steps to end violence against children, including:

- Developed the **National Action Plan** to End Violence Against Children
- **Eliminated the statute of limitations** for sexual violence crimes against children
- **Prohibited all forms of physical punishment** towards children and adolescents
Creating lasting change in Kenya

The government of Kenya launched its second VACS in 2019, a decade after the country first conducted a survey.

Results showcase how data can inform policies to create lasting change.

Mary Wamaitha, Founder of Gladways Community Center
Making a difference for Kenyan children and youth

Since the 2010 Kenya VACS, the prevalence of any childhood sexual violence was reduced by two-thirds for males:

The prevalence of any childhood sexual violence was reduced by half for females:
Opportunities for engagement
Learn more and get involved

togetherforgirls.org

@together4girls

@togetherforgirls

@Together for Girls
THANK YOU

Join us! togetherforgirls.org