



**Together  
for girls**



# **BUILDING A SAFER WORLD**

**STAKEHOLDER REPORT 2019-2021**

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## Message from the Founder and Executive Director & CEO

The Together for Girls (TfG) partnership was created more than a decade ago to address the severe health and human rights impacts of sexual violence against girls, particularly the high rates of HIV and AIDS infection among adolescent girls and young women compared with adolescent boys and young men. At a time when we are battling the COVID-19 pandemic, history reminds us that injustices perpetrated against the most vulnerable result in disproportionately severe consequences for them and for society at large.

We have witnessed these impacts over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic as children and young people face increased risk of violence as a result of various factors, including increased rates of orphanhood, economic instability and increases in poverty, isolation and lockdowns, and increased time spent online. We've also seen this brought to light thanks to the courageous conversations that sparked an overdue reckoning with racial justice around the world and the ongoing mobilization of the global women's movement. We recognize that there are critical lessons to apply to our work to ensure that our policies and systems serve and support all children, adolescents and communities.

All of these factors make the work of the TfG partnership more important than ever. To end sexual violence against children and adolescents, we must center the needs of survivors and prioritize **prevention, healing and justice** in order to achieve real and lasting change.

The substantial progress we have made as a partnership demonstrates that when we work together toward a common goal across nations and sectors, we can effectively respond to global challenges that once seemed insurmountable. By using evidence-based tools to address violence against children and adolescents in all corners of the world, and by working together—with partners and supporters like you—we have an opportunity to use this challenging moment to build a safer world for all.

**Gary M. Cohen**  
Founder and Board Chair,  
Together for Girls



**Dr. Daniela Ligiero**  
Executive Director and CEO,  
Together for Girls



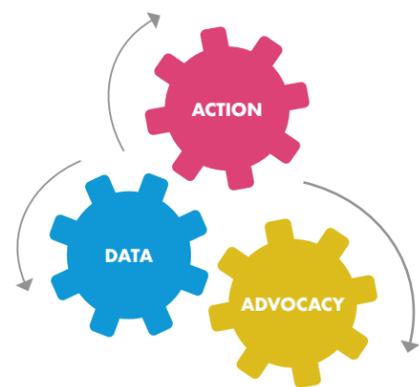
# INTRODUCTION

Together for Girls (TfG) is a global partnership working to end violence against children and adolescents, particularly sexual violence against girls. The partnership pays special attention to the gendered dimensions of violence and its impact on health, education and human rights. We envision a world where every young person is safe, protected and empowered.

Founded in 2009, the TfG partnership includes more than 20 national governments across sub-Saharan Africa, the Americas, Southeast Asia and Europe, as well as civil society organizations, UN entities, development partners and the private sector.

## Our Model

Our collective work uses an innovative three-pronged model:



### DATA:

Generating quality data and evidence about violence against children in order to inform solutions to prevent it.

### ADVOCACY:

Raising awareness to drive lasting change through communications and campaigns to build political will, shape policy agendas and elevate the voices of survivors.

### ACTION:

Galvanizing a coordinated, multisectoral response to bring evidence-based solutions to scale and create lasting change in the lives of children and adolescents.

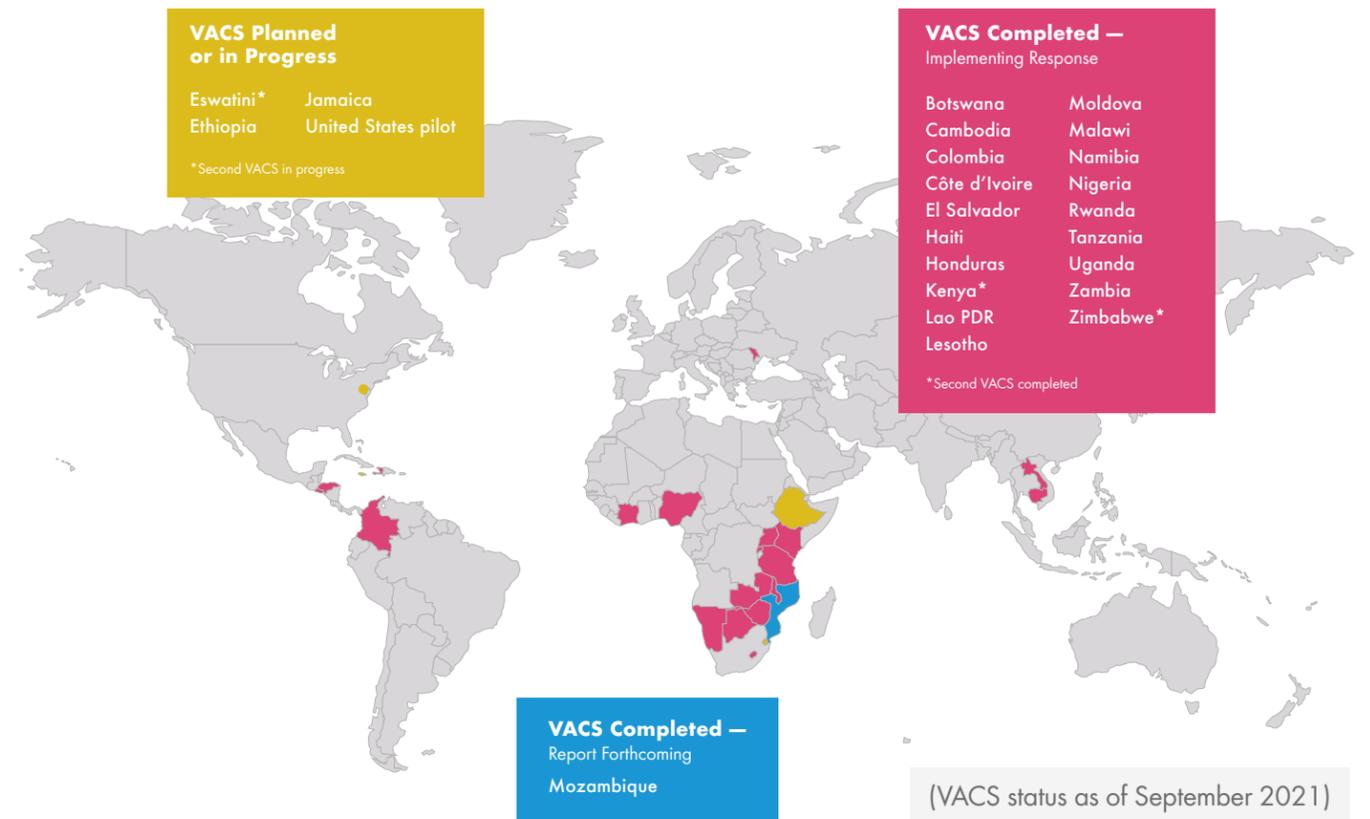
**Through data, advocacy and action, we work to ensure prevention, healing and justice.**

## Partners

TfG partners include more than 20 national governments around the world and the following organizations and agencies:



TfG partner countries, coded by where they are in the process of completing a Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), are shown below.



# DATA



At Together for Girls, all of our work is guided by data and evidence. We believe that quality, comprehensive data illuminates the pervasive problem of violence against children; informs effective prevention, healing and justice policies; and catalyzes action to create a safer world.

We support improving data on violence against children and youth primarily through the Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (VACS). The VACS are led by national governments with technical assistance and support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other partners.

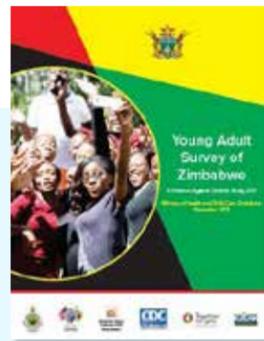
The VACS measure multiple forms of violence—sexual, physical and emotional—and provide important data on the context, risk factors, protective factors and consequences of violence. These nationally representative population-based household surveys generate a wide range of information about violence against children, adolescents and young people that can then inform policies and programs. Over the last decade, the VACS have fundamentally transformed countries’ abilities to understand and address violence against children, adolescents and youth at scale.

VACS data is collected and analyzed separately by sex, recognizing that the assigned sex of a child (female or male) can have vast implications on the child’s experience of sexual violence. However, there are limits to the data, as current VACS do not measure the experiences of nonbinary and transgender children, adolescents and young people. In addition, the VACS do not yet consistently measure disability and LGBTQ status, though the Lesotho VACS was the first survey to include questions on disability status and Honduras was the first country to include questions about sexual orientation. The VACS will continue to evolve to address the intersections of children’s experiences that may increase the risk of violence.



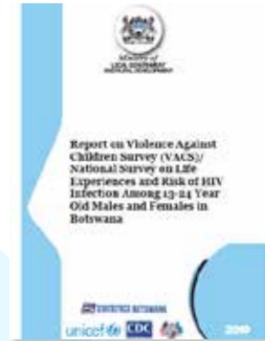
**To date, VACS have been conducted in 23 countries, providing data on nearly 11% of the world’s children, adolescents and youth.**

# VACS Report Launch Timeline



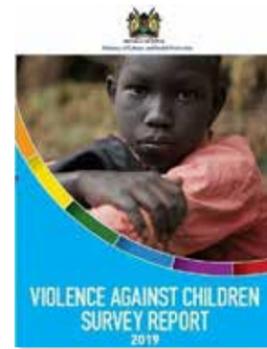
## ZIMBABWE

is the first country partner to complete the VACS twice, providing an opportunity to monitor change, examine progress and identify trends since its first VACS.



## BOTSWANA

is the first country to include HIV testing as part of the survey. This important new component provides an opportunity to examine the role violence plays in driving the HIV epidemic in high HIV burden countries.



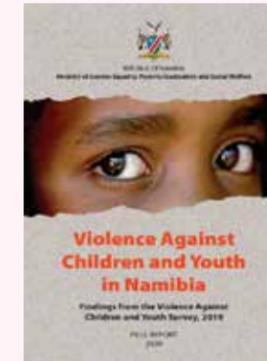
## KENYA

is the first country to compare results across its two separate VACS surveys. It demonstrates promising reductions in most forms of violence against children over the 10-year period from 2010 to 2019.



## CÔTE D'IVOIRE

launches its VACS report, which shows a high prevalence of youth exposure to violence in homes and communities and underscores the need to provide healthy and safe spaces for youth.



## NAMIBIA

launches its VACS report on the Day of the Namibian Child and becomes a Pathfinder Country with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (see page 40). VACS partners adapt to COVID-19 by conducting the first-ever virtual Data to Action workshop.

2019

## HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR

are the first countries in Latin America to launch VACS reports. Both reports included pioneering information on the intersections of violence against children and migration, and they contained commitments to using the VACS to inform policies that will prevent and respond to violence against children in the Northern Triangle region (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras).



2020

## COLOMBIA

is the first country in South America to conduct a VACS. Colombia now has comprehensive data on violence against children at the national and subnational levels. Subnational data represents 170 priority municipalities that were most affected by the internal armed conflict in Colombia.



## MOLDOVA

is the first country in Eastern Europe to launch a VACS report.



2021

## LESOTHO

is the first country to measure disability status among youth, demonstrating that children and youth with functional disabilities are at significantly increased risk of violence.



## MOZAMBIQUE

launches its Priority Indicator Report, an abridged version of its VACS report, with highlights on experiences of childhood violence from the data among young adults (ages 18-24).



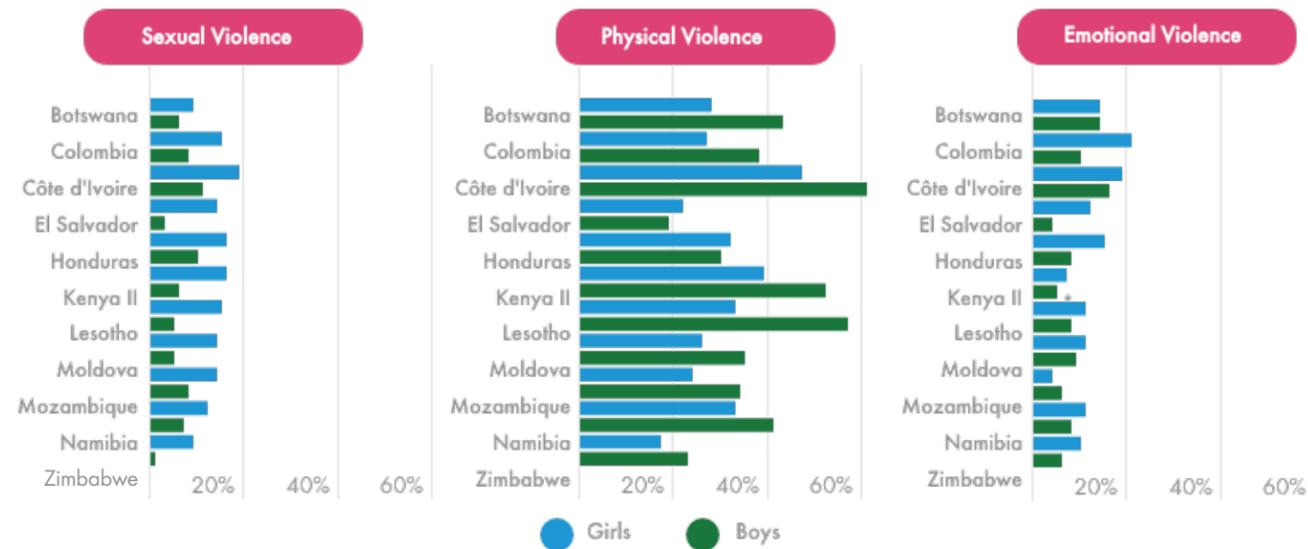
(As of September 2021)

# Highlights from the VACS Data

SHOWCASING RESULTS FROM THE ELEVEN VACS REPORTS LAUNCHED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

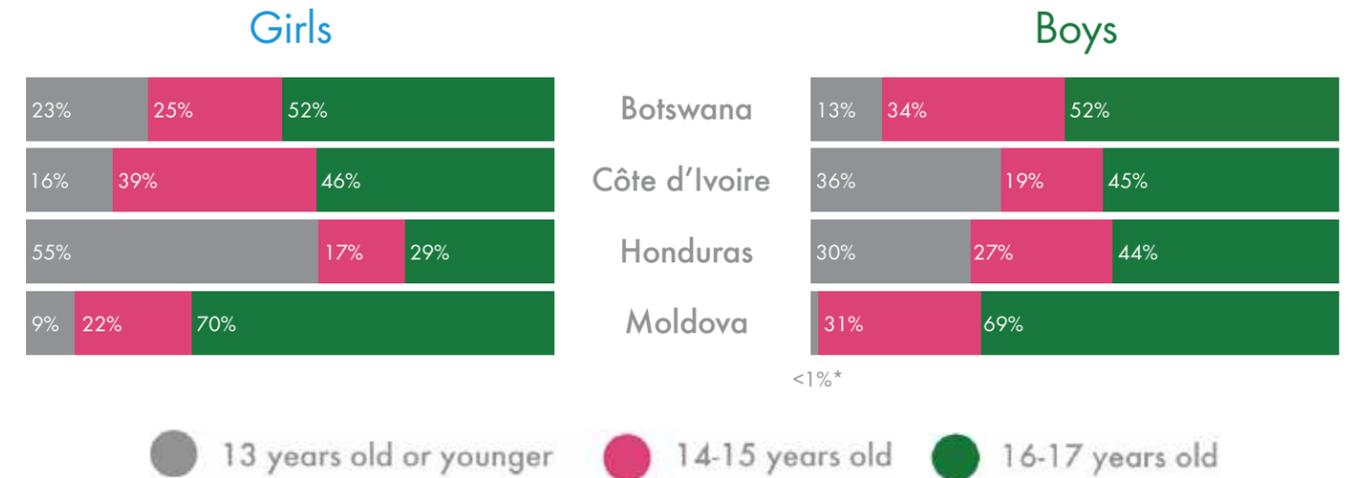
## GIRLS AND BOYS EXPERIENCE HIGH RATES OF VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT THEIR CHILDHOOD

% of 18- to 24-year-olds who experienced sexual/physical/emotional violence before age 18



## SEXUAL VIOLENCE HAPPENS THROUGHOUT CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE

Age of first experience of sexual violence, among 18- to 24-year-olds who experienced any sexual violence before age 18

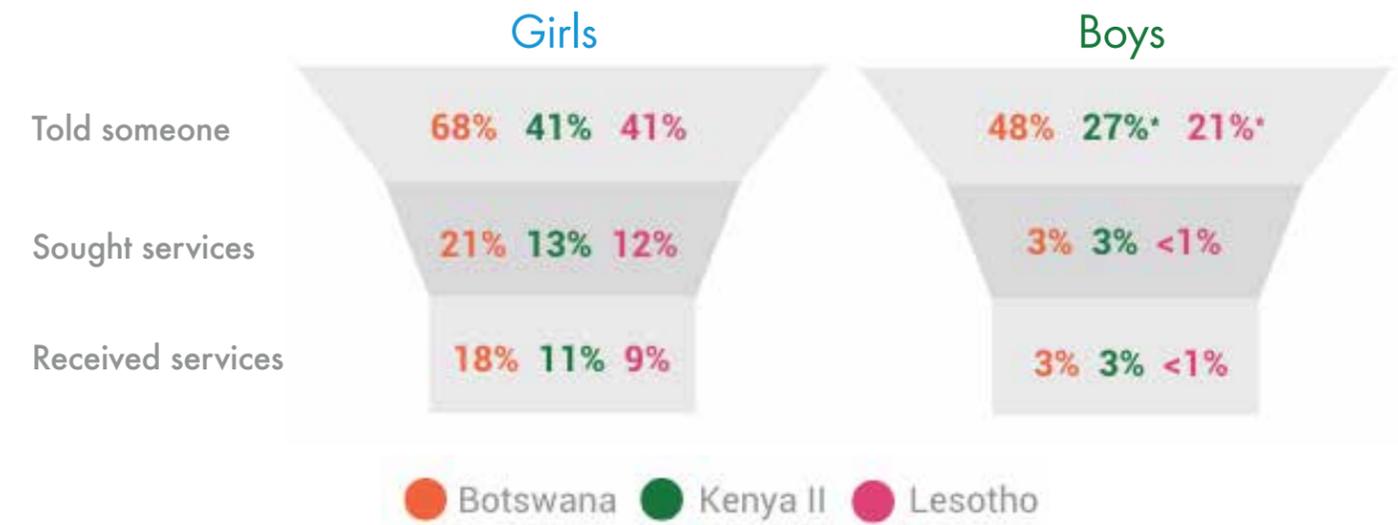


● 13 years old or younger ● 14-15 years old ● 16-17 years old

\*Unreliable estimate; result should be interpreted with caution.

## CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCE SEXUAL VIOLENCE ARE NOT GETTING THE SUPPORT AND SERVICES THEY NEED

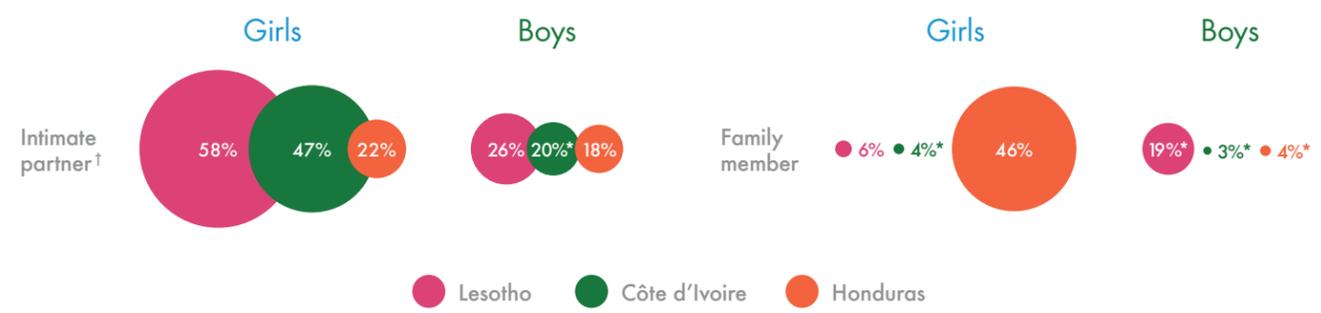
% of 18- to 24-year-olds who told someone, sought and/or received services for sexual violence, among those who experienced sexual violence prior to age 18



\*Unreliable estimate; result should be interpreted with caution.

## CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCE SEXUAL VIOLENCE OFTEN KNOW THEIR PERPETRATORS

% of 18- to 24-year-olds whose first sexual violence incident was perpetrated by an intimate partner/family member, among those who experienced sexual violence before age 18



\*Unreliable estimate; result should be interpreted with caution.

†Intimate partner includes current or previous spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend or romantic partner

All data from the Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys, led by national governments, with technical support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as part of the Together for Girls Partnership.

# Measuring Progress in Kenya

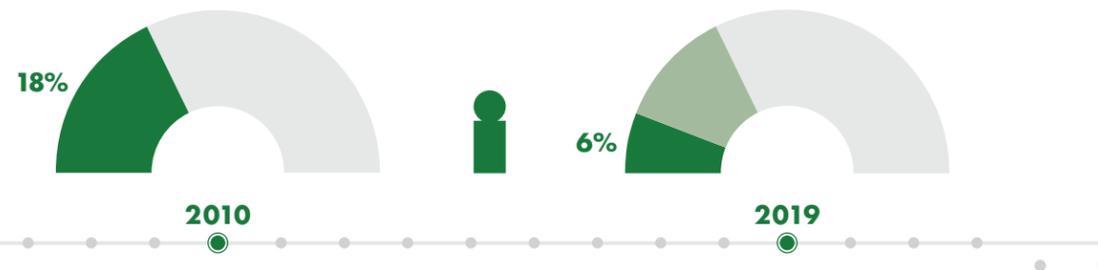
## USING DATA TO PROPEL ACTION

Kenya launched its second VACS in 2019, a decade after its first VACS. Results from Kenya's 2019 VACS reveal a powerful story about how data can provide reliable evidence to inform policies and programming to create a safer world for children. Key findings showed significant reductions in childhood violence since 2010. Despite the reductions in violence, the 2019 VACS revealed concerning trends on recent violence among adolescent girls ages 13-17.

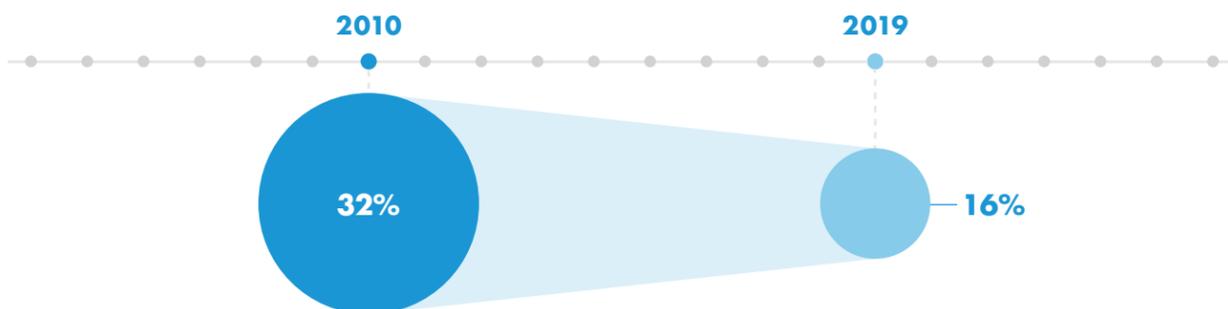
These findings underscore the importance of data disaggregated by sex and age—and that overall trends may mask risks for specific groups and from specific forms of violence. Overall, these results point to progress in Kenya, showcasing the power of the data to action process. Learn more about the people and partnerships that made progress toward ending violence against children in Kenya possible on page 26.

### DATA FROM THE 2019 KENYA VACS SHOWS THAT SINCE THE 2010 KENYA VACS...

The prevalence of any childhood sexual violence was reduced by two-thirds for **males**, from 18% to 6%.



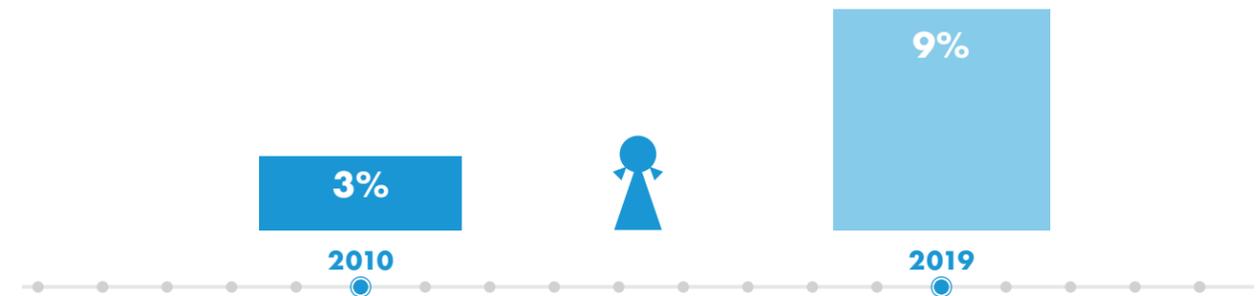
The prevalence of any childhood sexual violence was reduced in half for **females**, from 32% to 16%.



All data from the Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys, led by national governments, with technical support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as part of the Together for Girls Partnership.

### THE 2019 KENYA VACS REVEALED THAT AMONG ADOLESCENT FEMALES AGES 13-17...

The prevalence of unwanted attempted sex in the previous 12 months was higher in 2019 (at 9%) compared to 2010 (at 3%).



## Analyzing Data to Understand School-Related Gender-Based Violence

### ENDING VIOLENCE IN AND THROUGH SCHOOLS

Education is a fundamental human right. Access to equitable, quality education has an immense power to transform both the lives of individuals and the well-being of families, communities and nations. However, across the world, students report experiencing high rates of violence in and around schools.

School-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) can include teacher-perpetrated abuse, such as corporal punishment or sexual coercion. It can also include peer-perpetrated abuse, like bullying or discrimination. While school environments can enable violence, they also have a critical role to play in violence prevention and response (see Good School Toolkit on page 33 as just one example).

**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.**

Through support from Global Affairs Canada and USAID's Higher Education Solutions Network, the CDC and AidData conducted secondary analyses of VACS data to identify the prevalence of SRGBV, as well as details on violence perpetration, victimization risk and post-violence behaviors in select countries. The goal of this research was to better understand the complexities and nuances of violence in schools to inform the efforts of governments, organizations and other actors to foster safe school environments.

The secondary analyses evaluated the national prevalence of SRGBV and studied the gendered dimensions related to violence, including school absenteeism, the prevalence of different forms of violence, disclosure and seeking and access to services.

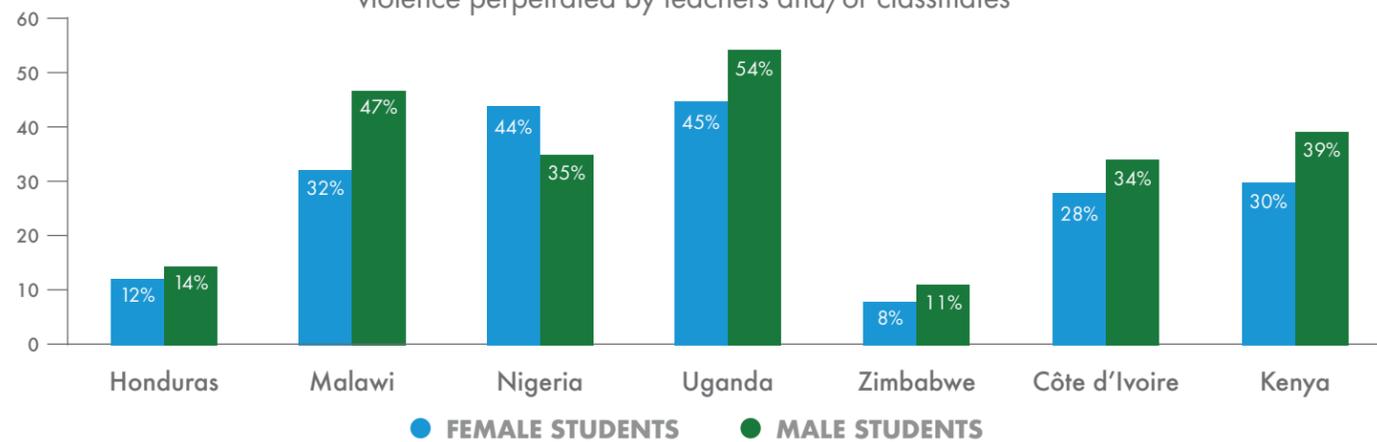
The CDC and TfG also completed secondary analyses in 12 countries that assessed the relationship between school completion (defined as having completed primary school or less, or secondary school or higher) and sociodemographic and violence variables. These analyses allow us to understand the links between violence and education, and to explore potential modifiable risk and protective factors and barriers to educational access.

The analyses studied the relationship between educational attainment and important outcomes, such as child marriage, pregnancy, early sexual debut, gender attitudes and beliefs, among others. All analyses were stratified by sex in order to assess associations separately for males and females. To learn more, visit [togetherforgirls.org/schools](http://togetherforgirls.org/schools).

## Findings From the SRGBV Secondary Analyses

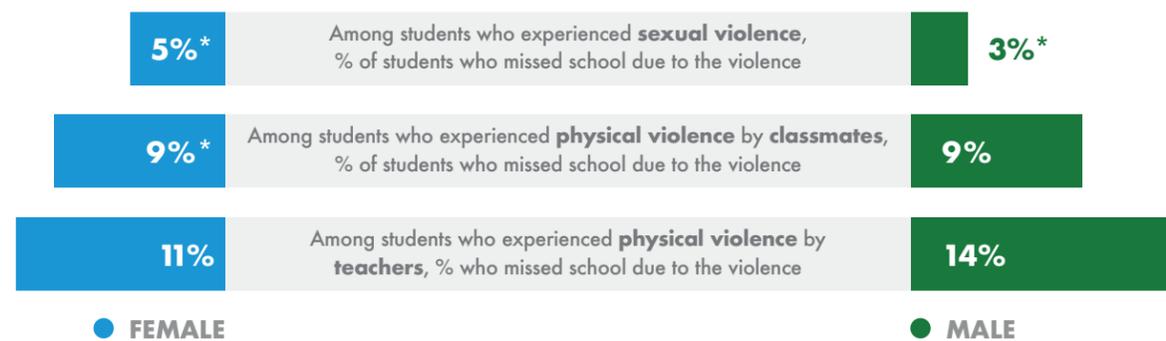
### SCHOOL-RELATED VIOLENCE IMPACTS MANY STUDENTS

% of students who experienced one or more forms of physical and sexual violence perpetrated by teachers and/or classmates



### MANY STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE SUBSEQUENTLY MISS SCHOOL

#### CÔTE D'IVOIRE



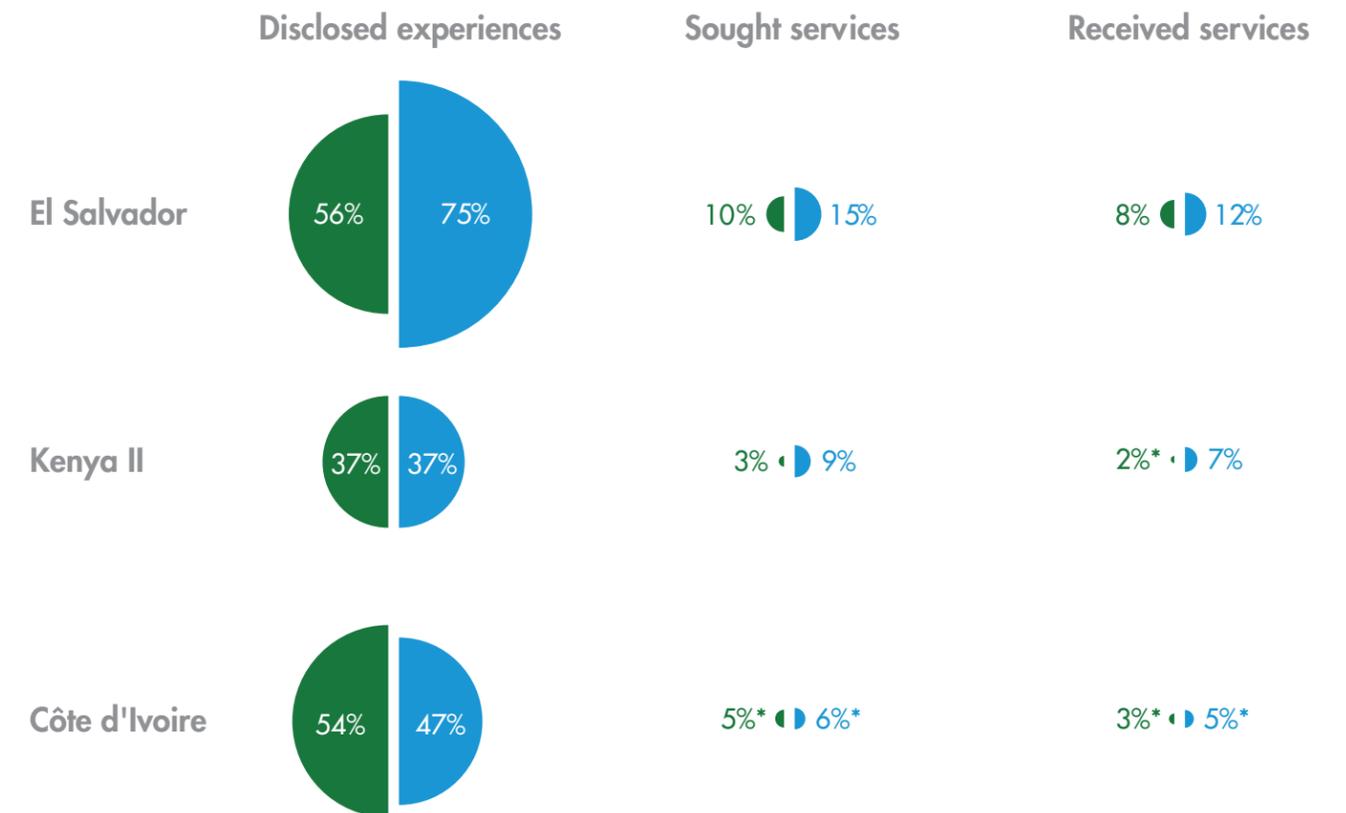
All data among 13- to 24-year-olds, unless otherwise indicated.

## HONDURAS



### GIRLS AND BOYS WHO EXPERIENCE PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL SETTINGS ARE NOT GETTING THE SUPPORT AND SERVICES THEY NEED

% of male and female students who disclosed experiences of physical violence, sought services for those experiences and received them



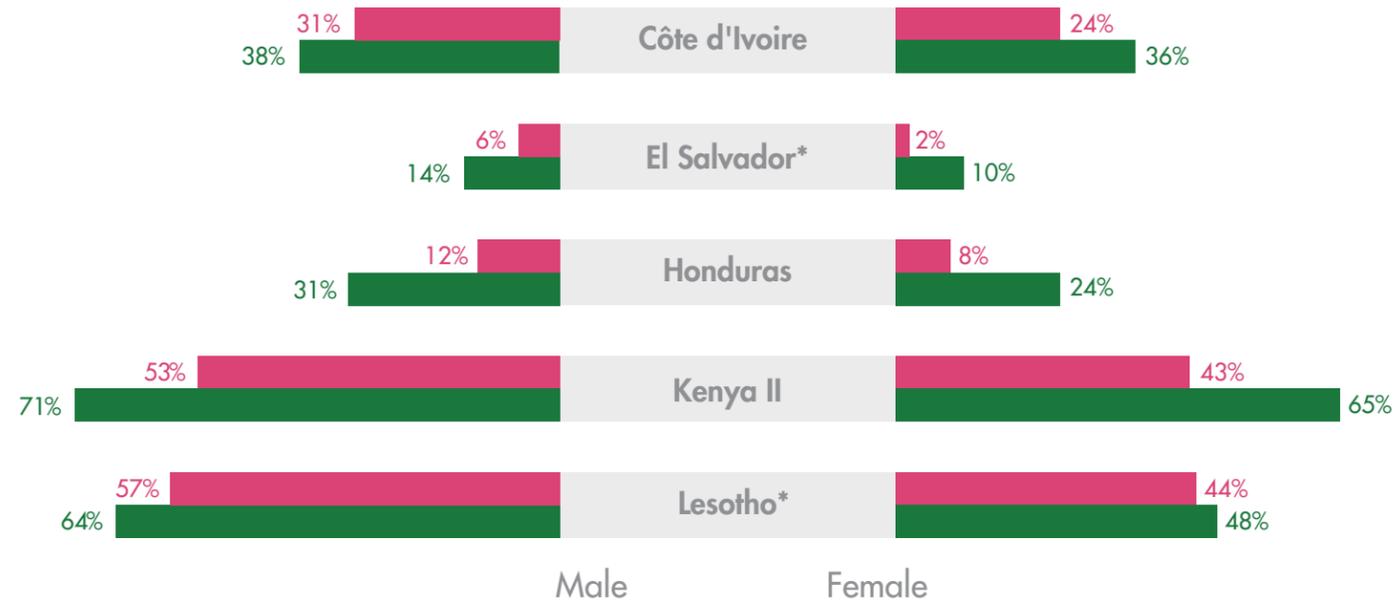
\* Estimate may be unreliable.

All data among 13- to 24-year-olds, unless otherwise indicated.

All data from the Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys, led by national governments, with technical support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as part of the Together for Girls Partnership.

## AGREEMENT WITH CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AT SCHOOL IS MORE COMMON AMONG STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED ONLY PRIMARY SCHOOL OR LESS

% of females and males who agreed with the need for corporal punishment at school, among 13- to 24-year-olds who attended only **primary school or less** and who attended or completed **secondary school or more**



\*Data among 14- to 24-year-olds.

All data from the Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys, led by national governments, with technical support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as part of the Together for Girls Partnership.

## Adapting the VACS to Humanitarian Settings

### MEASURING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN FRAGILE AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES



#### MEASURING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Implementation Guidance for a Humanitarian Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (HVACS)

OCTOBER 2020



TfG and partners recognize that children in fragile and conflict-affected communities are at a heightened risk for violence. While the field has small-scale, qualitative, service-based and anecdotal evidence that violence against children is an issue in humanitarian settings, population data is lacking.

In response, in 2020, the CDC, TfG and the International Rescue Committee, with support from Global Affairs Canada and input from experts in the violence against children and violence against women humanitarian space, developed *Measuring Violence Against Children in Humanitarian Settings: Implementation Guidance for a Humanitarian Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (HVACS)*. The guidance will help with measuring violence against children in humanitarian contexts, leading to better data to inform prevention and response efforts.



# Introducing the VACS Research Fellowship

## EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

The TfG VACS Research Fellowship provides training and mentoring to strengthen individual and institutional capacity to conduct research on violence against children and adolescents. The fellowship program helps ensure that researchers and institutes in countries that undertook a VACS are better equipped to conduct secondary analyses using VACS data, helping to increase our understanding of and ability to prevent and respond to violence against children.

In 2020, TfG and the CDC partnered with the Instituto Universitario en Democracia, Paz y Seguridad of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras and the Africhild Centre of Uganda to conduct research fellowships. TfG and the CDC, with input from the research institutes, developed a training and mentoring plan for regional researchers focused on building quantitative data analysis skills tailored to analyzing survey data from the VACS.

Researchers in Honduras explored the relationship between anti-bullying and violence prevention curricula in schools and experiencing physical or sexual violence in the past 12 months. In Uganda, the fellowship team looked at the relationship between household economic status, sexual violence and utilization of services among adolescents 13 to 17 years old. These findings will be published in scientific journals and communicated to policy and decision-makers, helping to inform violence prevention, healing and justice.



A group of researchers in Uganda convened for a training led by Africhild as part of the TfG VACS Research Fellowship. Participants included researchers from six universities across Uganda from a wide range of disciplines, including early childhood development, education, psychology, social work, public health and epidemiology.

## ADVOCACY

TfG global advocacy efforts seek to raise awareness and drive lasting change through communications and campaigns to build political will, shape policy agendas and elevate the voices of survivors. TfG ensures that violence against children and adolescents is on the agenda for key global moments by convening and collaborating with partners, activists, survivors and experts. In the past three years, TfG continued to expand its reach and strengthened advocacy efforts both in TfG partner countries and in the United States.

## Elevating the Voices of Survivors and Allies for Policy Change

### Mobilizing Collective Action

#### THE TIME IS NOW FOR PREVENTION, HEALING AND JUSTICE

All over the world, courageous survivors and allies are fighting to put an end to child sexual abuse. From shouting “#MeToo” to calling on leaders to end statutes of limitations, the collective actions taking place in all corners of the globe highlight what is possible when survivors and allies band together, but also how much work is left to be done to keep all children safe.

In 2020, TfG focused much of our efforts on mobilizing collective advocacy by adult survivors and allies for transformational change to end sexual violence against children, adolescents and youth. With multi-year support from Oak Foundation, TfG is supporting a diverse and broad coalition of survivors and allies working to demand an end to the pandemic of sexual violence against children through advocacy for bold public policy solutions and campaigns to shift societal norms and eradicate survivor stigma.

TfG first piloted this collective work in the United States and is now expanding its growing partnership to better contribute to the powerful global movement of survivors and allies fighting for an end to child sexual abuse and other forms of sexual violence against children—including girls, boys and diverse gender identities. Together, we are working for a safer world for all children and adolescents through a focus on prevention, healing and justice.

***“Every child has the right to grow up free from the threat of sexual violence. When we work together, as survivors and allies, we are powerful. We must be brave so that children can be safe.”***

—Dr. Daniela Ligiero

## Keeping Kids Safe During COVID-19 and Beyond

### ENDING THE SILENT PANDEMIC OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

It is estimated that more than one billion children experience some form of violence each year. COVID-19 led to lockdowns, school closures, increased poverty and more time spent online, all of which exacerbated the existing silent pandemic of sexual violence against children and adolescents. Additionally, between March 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021, an estimated 1.5 million children worldwide experienced the death of a parent or caregiver as a result of COVID-19, putting them at a higher risk of physical abuse and sexual violence.

In response to the crisis, TfG joined forces with several other organizations to create Keep Kids Safe in June 2020. Keep Kids Safe works to raise awareness about the urgent need to prioritize violence prevention, healing and justice for children during COVID-19 and beyond.

Led by adult survivors of child sexual abuse and national organizations, Keep Kids Safe made great strides in bringing attention to the issue of child sexual abuse in the United States. Through a letter signed by nearly 700 survivors, advocates and allied organizations, Keep Kids Safe called on bipartisan support from Congress to invest significant resources in emergency funding to strengthen child safety and protection programs. As a result of efforts by many national and state advocacy groups, including Keep Kids Safe, \$350 million in CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act) funding was included in the COVID-19 relief package for FY21, providing critical services for survivors.

***“We believe that a broader response to COVID-19 must include comprehensive protections from violence for children and adolescents...”***

—Keep Kids Safe letter to Congress for COVID-19 relief



## A VICTORY IN THE WHITE HOUSE

***“We must rededicate ourselves to creating a society where sexual violence—including sexual assault and sexual harassment—is not tolerated, where survivors are supported, and where all people have an opportunity to thrive without fear of abuse or assault.”***

—Presidential Proclamation on National Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month, March 31, 2021



In March 2021, the White House issued a presidential proclamation recognizing April 8 as a “Day for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Healing and Justice.” The moment came after Keep Kids Safe published a letter calling on the Biden administration to launch a bold presidential initiative to end sexual violence against children during the first 100 days of the new administration, including recognizing April 8. More than 300 individuals signed on to the letter, including survivors and advocates from organizations across the United States. The strong statement signaled the administration’s support of child abuse prevention efforts, and a newfound opportunity to build on the momentum and vision of the Keep Kids Safe coalition in the United States. To learn more, visit [keep-kids-safe.org](http://keep-kids-safe.org).



## Centering Survivor Voices

### SHATTERING THE SILENCE AND CREATING A SHARED SURVIVORS' AGENDA

Survivor voices and leadership are instrumental to effective and sustainable efforts to end sexual violence against children and adolescents.

In September 2020, TfG partnered with Darkness to Light, SNAP and the Army of Survivors to host the Survivors' Agenda Virtual Town Hall for Survivors of Sexual Violence in Childhood for more than 300 adult survivors of childhood sexual violence and allies. For the first time ever, TfG convened adult survivors of childhood sexual violence to share their priorities in driving policy change. These ideas are helping to shape TfG's future work to elevate and support survivor voices, and TfG hopes to create many more spaces in the future to actively listen to and engage survivors.

These ideas were also fed into the official Survivors' Agenda, a survivor-centered guide to drive and inform policy aimed at preventing sexual violence, which was officially unveiled in late September 2020. This broader effort, spearheaded by #MeToo Founder Tarana Burke and fellow advocates Fatima Goss Graves, Mónica Ramírez and Ai-jen Poo, is a collective of organizations that believe that survivors should shape the national conversation on sexual violence.



Survivors' Agenda: Virtual Town Hall for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Violence  
Panel Discussion hosted by Together for Girls | 09.01.20 | visual notes by Constanza Segovia @veoveodesign

## We are resourceful. We are resilient. We are ready.



It took me five years to say out loud that I was a victim of sex trafficking...but it has allowed me the freedom and the ability to connect with others, to have a voice and be able to say—this is what we can do from here.

Sarah Cooper, Activist



We have to create a plan and be prepared to protect kids to the best of our ability, under any circumstance.

Ashley Cook, Activist & Founder of Faith to Confront



Let's normalize these conversations about preventing sexual abuse in our homes, in our schools and in our institutions.

Tabitha Mpamira, Activist & Founder of Mutera



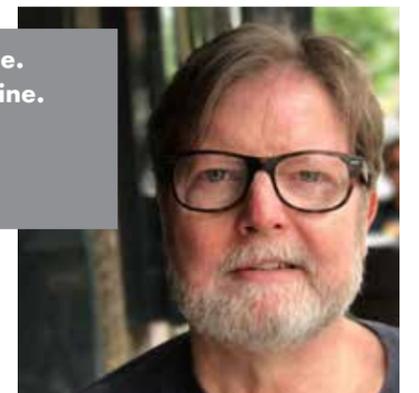
How do we deal with leadership that views abuse as a publicity problem, a marketing problem?

Rachael Denhollander, Author, Attorney & Former USA Gymnast



Let's work together to change what we can no longer accept.

Dr. Daniela Ligiero, Executive Director & CEO of Together for Girls



I knew the shame wasn't mine. The shame never had been mine.

Brian Toale, Activist & New York City SNAP Leader

# Highlighting Solutions to Drive Change

## EXPANDING THE #SVSOLUTIONS CONVERSATION

On World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse in November 2019, TfG officially released *What Works to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Children*, a groundbreaking evidence review of interventions to reduce violence against children. See page 32 for more information about the research process and solutions outlined in the evidence review.

The data is clear: Sexual violence affects children and adolescents in every country around the world. For far too long it has been a silent pandemic, with little awareness of the scope, scale and consequences of the problem or understanding of potential solutions. That silence has allowed violence against children to perpetuate. To help expand the global audience and increase awareness of solutions to prevent sexual violence against children, TfG created the #SVSolutions communications campaign.

#SVSolutions included a tailored mix of media outreach and digital promotions that showcased interventions to reduce violence from around the world. The campaign drove a dramatic increase in web traffic during the launch, as well as several features in news outlets (including a top story on NPR) and a robust social media conversation facilitated by partners and collaborators. TfG continued to drive traffic to the digital hub throughout Q4 2019 by profiling solutions from the evidence review (“Solutions Spotlights”) during each of the International 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (November 25-December 10).



# Spotlighting National Advocacy

## The “For a Society Without Barriers” Campaign

### PROMOTING GIRLS’ ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN HONDURAS

Sixteen-year-old Geraldine was repeatedly bullied at school in Puerto Cortés, Honduras.

“I suffered physical harassment. I changed schools, but it kept happening,” she said. “They hit me hard in the face. I got depressed and started cutting myself. I thought that schools supported you, not destroyed you.”

In Honduras, VACS data revealed for the first time that 32% of girls and 30% of boys experienced physical violence prior to age 18. Based on the VACS data, the Under Secretariat of Security in Prevention made the prevention of violence in schools a key priority as part of efforts to promote positive social and gender norms. With the support of Global Affairs Canada and in partnership with UNICEF and TfG, partners in Honduras launched a national campaign, “For a Society Without Barriers,” in October 2020 to promote positive social and gender norms for girls and advocate for girls’ access to education. The campaign was implemented online, in schools and in safe public spaces for children and adolescents, reaching more than 90,000 people in the first quarter alone. Alejandra Hernández Quan, Under Secretary of Security in the Prevention Office, noted the impact of the campaign and the powerful role that schools can play in breaking cycles of violence.



Under Secretary of Security in the Prevention Office Alejandra Hernández Quan shared the “For a Society Without Barriers” campaign messages with girls from “Los Robles” school in the Central District of Honduras. Photo courtesy of the Under Secretariat of Prevention

**#SVSolutions amplifies a TfG key message: We have the tools to prevent sexual violence against children; now it’s on us to bring these solutions to scale.**

She said, “The ‘For a Society Without Barriers’ campaign can have a substantial positive impact on the way girls are valued, and we’ve received positive reactions with the inspiring messages. The coordination with the Ministry of Education is essential for ensuring safe spaces for boys and especially girls as they gradually return to schools following the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue to strengthen the alliance with the Ministry of Education to build more evidence-based interventions, with schools as a central platform to reduce violence against children in Honduras.”

In response to the data that is now available through the VACS and other studies, Honduras plans to launch a National Action Plan to address violence against children and adolescents, including a whole pillar of interventions centered in schools. The National Action Plan will be launched later in 2021 through the National System for the Guarantee of the Rights of Children and Adolescents in Honduras (SIGADENAH), a multisector platform that integrates more than 22 institutions, including civil society and international agencies.

## Ending Violence Against Children and Youth in Kenya

### SPOTLIGHTING THE PARTNERS AND PEOPLE WHO MADE PROGRESS POSSIBLE

In 2020, Kenya became one of the first countries to launch a second VACS report, 10 years after the government released its first report. In the intervening decade between VACS, Kenya prioritized a number of policies and interventions aimed at reducing violence against children and youth. These actions, combined with the hard work of organizations, partnerships and individuals around the country, led Kenya to make great strides in preventing sexual violence against children. To learn more about the data from Kenya’s second VACS report, see page 12.

To elevate the stories of people and partnerships that made progress toward ending violence against children in Kenya possible, TfG, in collaboration with the CDC and the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), launched a digital storytelling hub. The hub features data from Kenya’s second VACS report as well as stories collected in Kenya by the CDC and PEPFAR showcasing amazing individuals working to create a safer world for women, children and youth in Kenya. Collectively, these stories share a hopeful message that through collaborative action, change is possible.

## Girls Who Dream

The “Girls Who Dream” series highlights autobiographical images and stories of adolescent girls and young women in Kenya and the impact of PEPFAR’s DREAMS program. Captured by the girls themselves from across the country, the stories showcase the young women’s resilience, courage and creativity. Text and images are from the “Our Lens Sauti Zetu (Our Voices)” photobook, used with permission from PEPFAR Kenya. As part of the Kenya storytelling project, TfG built a digital collage of the stories and photos, helping the DREAMS girls reach new audiences across the globe.



**I am now a rice farmer who is independent and can fight for my rights and the rights of others.**

—Angeline



**I will never depend on a man for money.**

—Lavender



**I was in a place where I could not be seen, but now I am visible.**

—Sheila



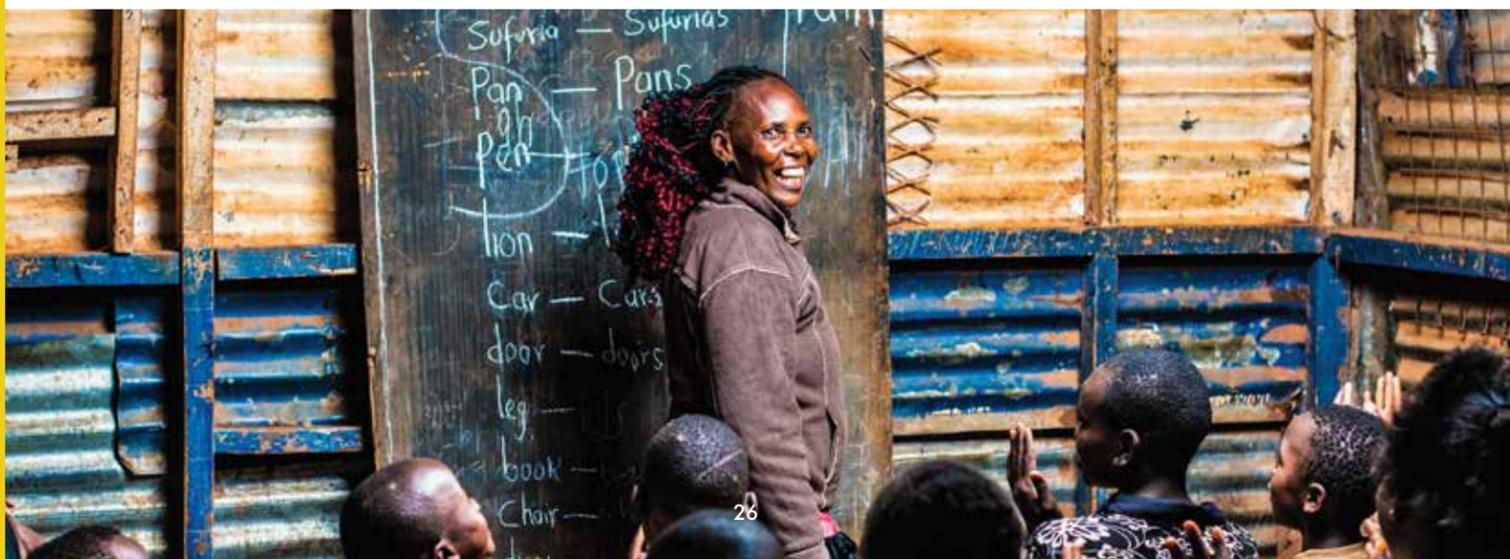
**I consider myself one of the luckiest girls alive.**

—Trezar



**I am now the breadwinner for my family.**

—Yorub





## Champions for Change

From a hairdresser-turned-activist to a boda boda driver, a police officer to a trauma nurse, ordinary individuals all over Kenya are doing extraordinary things to fight gender-based violence (GBV). In 2018, PEPFAR, in collaboration with the CDC, traveled across Kenya to collect stories of individuals working to end GBV across sectors, regions and disciplines. The result is “Champions for Change,” a photo-exhibit-turned-digital-essay that not only tells the stories of the champions, but also showcases how individual action can add up to a forceful nationwide movement against GBV.



At the clinic, I tell my patients that it is their right to receive treatment and to press charges against their abusers. To date, I have testified over 200 times in courtrooms across Kenya on behalf of my patients. It has become part of my life and seeing my clients win cases keeps me coming back to court. I encourage nurses to support other GBV survivors.

—Pacific Oriato, GBV Nurse



Change begins with me! I began the “My Dress My Choice” movement after a video went viral on social media of a woman being stripped naked for wearing a mini skirt. We protested on the streets against unfair treatment of women. Following this campaign, the sexual bill was amended and the individuals on that viral video were sentenced to 20 years in jail.

—Rita Mutheu, Business Owner and Activist

## Amplifying the Issue at Global Events

### LEVERAGING MOMENTS TO RAISE AWARENESS AND PROMOTE SOLUTIONS

TfG works to ensure that addressing violence against children is on the global agenda. TfG regularly convenes and attends global conferences, meetings and events to raise awareness about the partnership’s work, showcase VACS data and amplify solutions for prevention, healing and justice. The events in this section are a few highlights.



### RINGING THE OPENING BELL AT THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE, SEPTEMBER 2019

(New York City, United States)

To commemorate TfG’s 10th anniversary, TfG founder Gary Cohen joined Dr. Daniela Ligiero, TfG executive director and CEO, and a group of global and national-level partners in ceremoniously ringing the New York Stock Exchange opening bell on behalf of the partnership. Partners included Dr. James Mercy, Director of the Division of Violence Prevention at the CDC; María Juliana Ruiz Sandoval, the First Lady of Colombia; Ambassador Marc-André Blanchard, Canadian Permanent Representative Ambassador to the UN; Michele Moloney-Kitts, first executive director of TfG; as well as representatives from BD, SAFE Heroes Isaiah Owolabi and Chessy Prout, civil society, UNICEF and the Office of the Special Representative to the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children. An important moment to recognize all the progress made by the partnership over the past decade, this event also raised awareness about the work left to be done.

## 2019

### WOMEN DELIVER, JUNE 2019

(Toronto, Canada)

At Women Deliver, the world's largest conference on gender equality and the health, rights and well-being of girls and women, TFG organized and hosted multiple side events. Above, TFG Executive Director and CEO Dr. Daniela Ligiero gave a plenary session speech during the conference, sharing her story as a survivor and advocate and highlighting the work of TFG.



### UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SEPTEMBER 2019

(New York City, United States)

At the UN General Assembly, TFG joined discussions about global violence prevention and response. During one memorable session, Dr. Ligiero joined Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook, and other partners to discuss critical gender data gaps for the Sustainable Development Goals.

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESEARCH INITIATIVE FORUM, OCTOBER 2019

(Cape Town, South Africa)

TFG participated in the 2019 SVRI Forum—the world's key research conference on gender-based violence. TFG, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and SVRI co-hosted an event, Measuring Progress, Driving Solutions, to showcase new resources to prevent sexual violence against children, including INSPIRE, the Out of the Shadows Index and *What Works to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Children*.



## 2020

## Engaging New Audiences Online

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a shift in events from in person to online, which opened up a unique opportunity to connect with new audiences and activists from around the world.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL, OCTOBER 2020

In honor of International Day of the Girl 2020, TFG partnered with Global Affairs Canada on its event titled "Gender-Based Violence as a Barrier to Girls' Education – Perspectives from Canadian and International Partners." During the virtual event, Dr. Ligiero presented findings from our secondary analyses of the VACS on school-related gender-based violence and violence as a barrier to girls' education.

### PROTECT THE PROGRESS: RISE, REFOCUS, RECOVER OCTOBER 2020

Every Woman Every Child invited TFG's Dr. Ligiero to join H.E. Amina Mohammed, Henrietta Fore, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Michelle Bachelet and other great leaders in committing to prioritize the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents and safeguard the decades of progress made as the world addresses the COVID-19 pandemic.

### COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SOCIETY, APRIL-MAY 2021

For Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) 2021, TFG co-led a moderated roundtable discussion entitled "Safe and Gender Equitable Schools: Utilizing data to catalyze advocacy and action on SRGBV and barriers to girls' education" in collaboration with the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), USAID, the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) and UNESCO. TFG shared findings from its secondary analyses of the VACS, helping to raise awareness of the impact of gender-based violence on girls' educational outcomes.

## 2020



### TOGETHER TO #ENDVIOLENCE LAUNCH, DECEMBER 2020

Dr. Ligiero joined global leaders including Henrietta Fore, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, H.E. Amina Mohammed and more in launching Together to #ENDviolence: a global campaign and Solutions Summit Series to elevate efforts to address violence against children.

## 2021



### SAFE: PREVENTING GBV IN AND THROUGH SCHOOLS, JUNE 2021

TFG hosted a Solutions Summit event with Global Affairs Canada, USAID, the CDC, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children/Safe to Learn, the Global Partnership for Education, UNGEI, FAWE and Malala Fund. The event featured panel discussions with global leaders, experts and youth activists who highlighted the latest data and evidence on violence in school settings and how schools can serve as important arenas for broader social change to end violence.

# ⚙️ ACTION

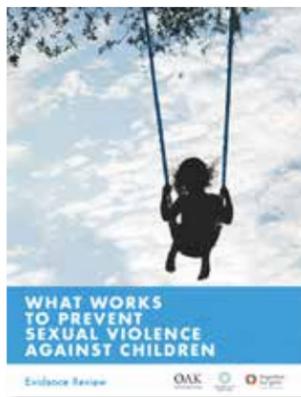
All of our data and advocacy efforts are motivated by the goal of galvanizing action to end violence. Through our work, we seek to build a coordinated, multisectoral response to bring evidence-based solutions to scale and create lasting change in the lives of children and adolescents.

National government partners use the data from the VACS to develop policies and programs to address issues identified through the surveys, including legal and policy reform; improved services for children and adolescents who experienced violence; and prevention, healing and justice programs.

Additionally, TfG promotes evidence-based solutions. We build tools and conduct research so that decision-makers, advocates and program implementers around the world have the information they need to prevent and respond to violence so that every child and adolescent is safe, protected and empowered.

## What Works to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Children

### PROVIDING AN ACTIONABLE ROADMAP OF EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS



TfG, in partnership with Oak Foundation and The Equality Institute, undertook a systematic review of proven solutions and best practices to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children and youth. The review, called *What Works to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Children*, was completed in collaboration with a group of experts and allied organizations. Building on the INSPIRE framework, which offers seven overarching strategies to prevent all forms of violence against children (see page 40), the review consolidates and categorizes evidence-based interventions from around the world—from a girl’s empowerment initiative in India to justice reform in Guatemala to a

school-based education program in the United States. It serves as an actionable roadmap for decision-makers, advocates and program implementers for preventing sexual violence against children and adolescents.

As with INSPIRE, the review is aligned with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 17 transformative and ambitious goals to be achieved by 2030 in order to improve the human condition and sustainability of our planet. SDG 16.2 specifically seeks to “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.”

## Solutions Spotlights

Below are examples of evidence-based interventions from *What Works to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Children* that are being implemented around the world, and that can be scaled and adapted to meet a country’s or community’s specific context.



The Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) program by Futures Without Violence works with men and boys on sports teams to challenge stereotypes, toxic masculinity and norms that justify violence. Recognizing the influential role athletics can play in young men’s lives, the program provides coaches with resources to promote positive attitudes and behaviors among athletes and to help prevent abuse, harassment and assault. A cluster-randomized evaluation found that there was a clear shift in behaviors of participants, with the experience and perpetration of physical intimate partner violence significantly decreasing in intervention communities.



To prevent violence against children in Ugandan schools, Raising Voices developed the Good School Toolkit, a holistic and sustainable methodology for creating violence-free schools. The toolkit guides educators through the process of creating a Good School, such as by encouraging positive discipline rather than corporal punishment. The toolkit was designed and tested with the involvement of teachers, students and administrative leaders, and has proven effective in reducing staff violence against children in Ugandan primary schools.

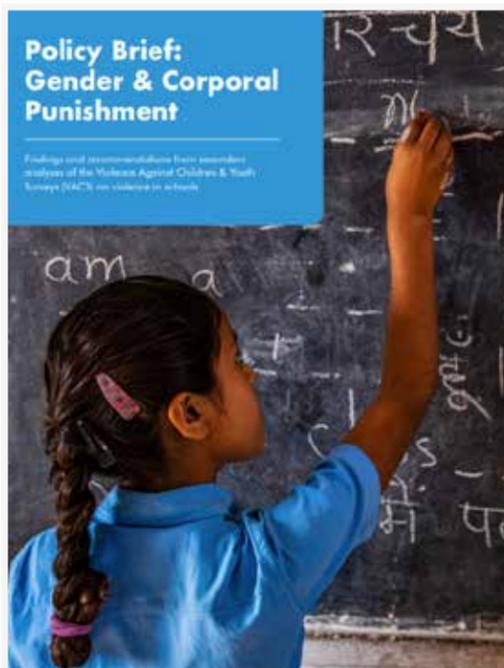


Photo courtesy of A Breeze of Hope

In Bolivia, A Breeze of Hope Foundation ensures survivors of childhood sexual violence can access health services and legal assistance. Founded by activist, attorney and survivor Brisa De Angulo, A Breeze of Hope is grounded in the experiences of those who have lived through sexual violence. The first of its kind in Bolivia, the center offers professional psychological support, comprehensive legal accompaniment and wide-ranging social services to survivors and their families.

# Taking Action to Keep Children Safe in and Through Schools

## GUIDING POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC EFFORTS TO END SRGBV



In 2021, TfG published a policy brief exploring the gendered dynamics of corporal punishment in schools. The brief highlights findings from the secondary analyses of the VACS exploring the intersection among gender, experiences of and attitudes toward corporal punishment and its consequences. It provides a series of recommendations for further research and considerations for policy and program development to prevent corporal punishment in schools.

All children and adolescents deserve to learn in a safe school setting. Unfortunately, the impact and experience of violence is a barrier to accessing and completing a quality education—especially for adolescent girls. TfG’s school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) secondary analyses revealed important and varied gendered differences across the 10 countries analyzed (see page 13). These findings demonstrate the importance of understanding the relationship between gender and patterns of violence in developing and implementing effective interventions in a given context.

Using the findings from the secondary analyses on SRGBV, TfG and partners developed recommendations for policymakers, advocates, program implementers and other key actors, with a focus on those in the education sector, so that they are better equipped to prevent and address violence in and around school settings. This work is particularly timely as the world continues to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; as nations look toward recovery efforts and opportunities to build back better, schools must provide safe and violence-free learning environments to enable girls and all marginalized children to return to school.

**As schools serve as a microcosm of society, where norms can either be reinforced or challenged, educational settings provide a unique opportunity to interrupt cycles of violence within communities and societies.**

# National Action Spotlights

## Colombia’s Commitment to End Violence Against Children

Colombia made meaningful commitments and took several important steps to end violence against children as it has embarked on the VACS process. Colombia, through the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, led the implementation of the VACS in 2017 with support from the CDC, USAID, the International Organization for Migration and TfG. In 2019, Colombia presented its VACS results and made a public commitment to address violence against children as a Pathfinding country of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (see page 40).

The First Lady of Colombia, María Juliana Ruiz Sandoval, made preventing and responding to all forms of violence against children her signature initiative, repeatedly speaking out about the specific issue of sexual violence against children. In 2019, the Office of the First Lady launched the National Alliance for the Prevention of Violence Against Children, a partnership among government, civil society and academia.

***“Working with Together for Girls is the first time we have been able to bring together a multisectoral approach to this issue. Violence against children is not a matter of individuals; this is a community problem. We are grateful to be a part of this program and have the data and the tools to address the problem.”***

-María Juliana Ruiz Sandoval, the First Lady of Colombia, at the New York Stock Exchange bell-ringing ceremony to celebrate TfG’s 10-year anniversary (see page 29).

Starting in 2019, the Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar steered the process of developing a multisectoral National Action Plan (NAP) to prevent and respond to violence against children with the same multisectoral approach. Colombia’s NAP focuses on several areas of prevention but prioritizes three specific areas: parenting, social and gender norms change and education.

Global partners (including UNICEF, TfG, USAID and the HEARD Project, the CDC, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the End Violence Lab and the World Bank) supported the development of the Colombia NAP. Partners helped by addressing gaps and priorities identified by the national government, or by providing technical assistance, such as staffing support to the NAP, the development of subnational action plans in Colombia’s 32 departments and supporting an INSPIRE leadership course.



During the launch of Colombia's VACS report in 2020, experts presented highlights from the report.

The Colombian government and partners also hosted an INSPIRE regional course for South America, bringing together different countries to share experiences.

As a result of Colombia's commitment to the VACS process and public demand, there is increased momentum to end violence against children in Colombia, leading to concrete actions. In February 2021, Colombia passed a law eliminating the statute of limitations for sexual violence crimes against children, reflecting the evidence outlined in *What Works to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Children*. In March 2021, the Congress of Colombia approved a bill to prohibit all forms of physical punishment and humiliating treatments against children and adolescents. This represents an important achievement for civil society and the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, as both actors were deeply involved throughout the process and drafted the bill that was initially presented to Congress.

## National Results: Colombia

**2017-2018**

VACS implementation



**JULY 2019**

VACS Data to Action Workshop

**AUGUST 2019**

Results of the Colombia VACS launched



**AUGUST 2019**

Colombia joins the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children as a Pathfinding country  
Colombia forms the National Alliance Against Violence in Childhood and Adolescence

**MARCH 2020**

Colombia VACS report launched



**NOVEMBER 2020**

Colombia hosts INSPIRE regional course

**2020-2021**

Development of National Action Plan to End Violence Against Children



**FEBRUARY 2021**

Colombia eliminates statute of limitations for sexual violence crimes against children

**MARCH 2021**

Colombia prohibits all forms of physical punishment towards children and adolescents



**2021**

Development of departmental action plans

**2021**

National Action Plan to End Violence will be launched (date TBD)



## Reinventing a Côte d'Ivoire Without Violence Against Children

Data from Côte d'Ivoire's VACS shows that 47% of girls and 61% of boys have experienced physical violence and 19% of girls and 11% of boys have experienced sexual violence prior to age 18. Among those who experienced sexual violence prior to age 18, only about 3% received help.

To help end violence against children across the country, in December 2020, Côte d'Ivoire launched a year-long campaign—"Reinventing a Côte d'Ivoire without violence against children / Réinventons une Côte d'Ivoire sans violence faite aux enfants"—to help end violence against children across the country. The campaign was spearheaded by the Ministry of Women, Family and Children and the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection under the chairmanship of the First Lady, Madame Dominique Ouattara, with support from UNICEF.

The launch marked the beginning of a groundbreaking year-long plan of action the Ivorian government developed in collaboration with UNICEF, the WHO and partners. The action plan aimed to mobilize actors, challenge businesses, encourage young people as agents of change and find concrete and long-lasting solutions for different forms of violence against children that can be transformed into an institutional response in Côte d'Ivoire.

The launch event previewed the campaign to nearly 1,000 participants, including government officials, ambassadors, private sector leaders, media, development partners and young people all committing to ending violence against children in Côte d'Ivoire.

This initiative aligns with regional priorities, focuses on all forms of violence and follows the INSPIRE strategies to underscore Côte d'Ivoire's work as a Pathfinder country with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (see page 40).

Activities to disseminate the results of Côte d'Ivoire's VACS are ongoing. In August 2021, the Ministry of Women, Families and Children held a panel to share the VACS results with universities and research institutes in Côte d'Ivoire. Côte d'Ivoire will use the results from the VACS to inform the country's policies to prevent and respond to violence against children and youth. Researchers will also use the results to conduct further analyses of the data, leading to a greater understanding of violence in the country to inform prevention and response efforts.



The First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, Madame Dominique Ouattara, spoke at the launch of the "Reinventing a Côte d'Ivoire without violence against children" campaign. ©UNICEF/UN0379875/Diarassouba

***"For my part, I will continue to work tirelessly for the protection and well-being of our children."***

—Madame Dominique Ouattara, First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire



The Minister of Women, Families and Children, the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, the UNICEF Regional Deputy Director and other leaders and government officials joined the launch of the "Reinventing a Côte d'Ivoire without violence against children" campaign. ©UNICEF/UN0379878/Diarassouba



Ines Gouanou, President of the Children's Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire, spoke alongside other representatives from the Children's Parliament calling for concrete actions to end violence against children in the country. ©UNICEF/UN0379863/Diarassouba

## INSPIRE

### Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children



### What is a Pathfinding country?

Pathfinding countries make a formal, public commitment to comprehensive action to end all forms of violence against children within the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. Their leaders commit to use the INSPIRE Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children to understand the drivers of violence and build integrated responses that improve the lives of children and young people, such as national action plans to end violence. Pathfinding countries commit to achieving a specific series of milestones within 18 months of announcing Pathfinding status.

### Namibia VACS Virtual Data to Action

The Namibia VACS includes rich data on violence, its risk factors and contexts, and consequences. It also includes comprehensive data on INSPIRE indicators, highlighting areas of unique vulnerability among children and youth in Namibia.

To support Namibia in translating VACS data into a national strategy to prevent violence, an in-country VACS Data to Action (D2A) workshop was planned in May 2020. Due to COVID-19, these activities were transformed into a series of virtual capacity-building workshops and technical assistance sessions. Through leadership of the Government of Namibia and with strong engagement from the CDC, UNICEF Namibia, PEPFAR, USAID and other TfG partners, the Namibia D2A built country capacity to develop sector-specific responses to violence and resulted in a National Action Plan framework to end violence against children.

The government used VACS data to review its current portfolio of initiatives and pivot those projects to the evidence-based programming suggested in INSPIRE. The government noted key findings that uncovered areas that need immediate improvement, such as delivering services to survivors of childhood sexual violence. Other key priorities include developing a comprehensive, multisector approach to all forms of violence, but with an emphasis on gender-based violence; addressing harmful gender norms through school-based programs; delivering positive parenting

and family strengthening programs; and implementing household economic strengthening programs to combat child marriage. These efforts demonstrate the strength of partnership in adapting and showcase the utility of INSPIRE and how VACS data can be used to inform evidence-based programming and policy strategies.

## Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

### TAKING ACTION TO PRIORITIZE CHILDREN'S SAFETY

The COVID-19 global pandemic upended life as we know it. With movements restricted, access to resources limited and health care systems overstretched, interpersonal violence was exacerbated, with children being particularly vulnerable. In response, TfG partners shared critical resources and tools and launched global initiatives to spark action to ensure that violence against children and adolescents is being addressed during these challenging times.

### COVID parenting tip sheets



WHO, USAID, UNICEF, the CDC and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children in collaboration with the Internet of Good Things and Parenting for Lifelong Health developed a suite of parenting resources to help encourage positive parent-child relationships and reduce violence against children during COVID-19 and beyond.

To date, the parenting resources have reached over **193 million people** around the world, supporting parents and caregivers of children of all ages.

### Education Plus Initiative

On July 1, at the Generation Equality Forum in Paris, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women launched Education Plus, a new high-level political advocacy initiative to accelerate actions and investments to effectively prevent HIV, centered on the empowerment of adolescent girls and young women and the achievement of gender equality in sub-Saharan Africa. The initiative urges countries in the region to guarantee universal access to free, quality secondary education by 2025, alongside a multisectoral "plus" package every adolescent girl and young woman should be entitled to in their transitions to adulthood. These include comprehensive sexuality education, sexual and reproductive health and rights, freedom from gender-based violence and economic empowerment through school-to-work transitions.



At the launch, the first five countries to become champions of the initiative were announced—Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, Lesotho and Sierra Leone. TfG joined Education Plus, which will serve as an open advocacy platform through 2025 for all partners and organizations dedicated to the rights, education and health of adolescent girls and young women and gender equality.

## #COVIDUnder19



The Office of the Special Representative to the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children joined Terre des hommes and about 30 organizations in developing the #CovidUnder19 initiative. The initiative launched a global survey, designed by Queen’s University Belfast along with children and young people, to understand what children are experiencing due to COVID-19 with the aim of involving children in developing responses to these issues. TfG was part of the technical advisory group that helped develop the survey questionnaire, which included questions regarding safety and experiences of violence.

TfG showcased these resources, in addition to a curated list of actionable information, resources and tools to help with prevention, healing and justice during COVID-19 and beyond on its COVID-19 resource hub. To learn more, visit [togetherforgirls.org/covid-19](https://togetherforgirls.org/covid-19).

## New Resources to Catalyze Change

### Linking the VACS to Effective Action

#### SUPPORTING COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE VACS PROCESS



In order to support countries and TfG partners interested in undertaking a VACS and supporting data-informed actions to address violence against children and youth, TfG and the CDC released *Linking Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys to Coordinated and Effective Action: CDC and the Together for Girls Partnership*. The document provides guidance throughout the entire VACS process, from the initial stages of planning for the survey and building stakeholder support to prevention, healing and justice programming using data to inform national action.

Linking Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys to Coordinated and Effective Action: CDC and the Together for Girls Partnership is a publication of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



## Scaling Up Success with a New Framework

### ADAPTING AND SCALING UP VIOLENCE PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS



TfG partners—the CDC, UNICEF, WHO and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children—are collaborating on an INSPIRE Global Adaptation and Scale-Up Framework project, which kicked off in 2019. This project builds on existing political commitment and multisectoral coordination mechanisms to adapt and scale up implementation of select violence prevention interventions. In the first year of the project, the application of the INSPIRE framework in Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda, the Philippines and Cambodia

will result in the development and implementation of country-specific adaptation and scale-up roadmaps in line with existing national priorities for preventing violence against children as reflected in country National Action Plans.

## Launch of the Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children and World Health Assembly Resolution

### EXPLORING PROGRESS TOWARD A SAFER WORLD FOR CHILDREN

In June 2020, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, the Office of the U.N. Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children and the Global Partnership to End Violence



Against Children launched *The Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children 2020*. The report explores the progress made in 155 countries in implementing the INSPIRE technical package, a set of seven strategies for preventing and responding to violence against children. The report shows that INSPIRE can help reduce violence against children, but that all countries need to scale up efforts to implement those strategies.

One year later, in May 2021, a World Health Assembly resolution on *Ending violence against children through health systems strengthening and multisectoral approaches* was created to strengthen health sector capacity to prevent and respond to violence against children. The resolution calls on countries to scale up the INSPIRE technical package

and invites the WHO secretariat to prepare the second and third global status reports on violence against children in 2025 and 2030, underlining the need to continuously collect strong data on the prevalence of violence and monitor progress in prevention and response efforts.

# MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS AND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



AT LEAST

**\$20 MILLION**

WORTH OF RESOURCES ARE CONTRIBUTED TO TOGETHER FOR GIRLS' PARTNERSHIP WORK EACH YEAR

MORE THAN

**\$150 MILLION**

OF DIRECT AND IN-KIND RESOURCES HAVE BEEN LEVERAGED TO ACHIEVE TOGETHER FOR GIRLS' GOALS SINCE ITS INCEPTION

Together for Girls (TfG) is a global partnership. A leadership council—which brings together key leaders from partner agencies—provides overall guidance, strategic direction and coordination of the partnership's operation plan and monitors the implementation of agreed-upon policies, plans and activities. The TfG secretariat manages and supports the global partnership in achieving its goals and objectives, largely through coordination, policy leadership, technical assistance, advocacy, communications and fundraising efforts.

Partners work together at the national and global levels to drive action, provide technical expertise, generate evidence, develop and disseminate guidance on evidence-based best practices and engage in advocacy and communications. In countries where TfG is active, work is led by national governments through a multisector task force, and in-country partners coordinate and lead the work locally.

The TfG model is designed to promote coordination and leverage resources from partner organizations, including governments, the United Nations, civil society and private sector entities, as well as other generous donors. Building on partners' core capacities and programming, the partnership is innovative and efficient. Funding is channeled through several mechanisms, depending on which activities the funds are intended to support. The majority of the funds are transferred internally within partner organizations—and are accounted for through their audited financial statements—or partnership work is undertaken directly by partners. In addition, the CDC Foundation, the United Nations Foundation and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF have received and administered funds that support partnership activities.

Together for Girls, Inc.—a 501(c)(3) entity—was established over five years ago and enables funding for the TfG partnership and secretariat from individuals and organizations. Together for Girls, Inc. is governed by a board of directors, which has fiduciary responsibility for the 501(c)(3) entity and supports its fundraising and communications efforts. Together for Girls, Inc. is responsible for all secretariat operating costs, including staffing. Together for Girls, Inc.'s audited financial statements may be found at [togetherforgirls.org/financials](http://togetherforgirls.org/financials).

For 2019-2021, Together for Girls' largest donors and implementing partners were PEPFAR, USAID, UNICEF, Global Affairs Canada, the CDC, Oak Foundation, Cummins&Partners and BD. The financial support largely funds country partners' surveys, policy work and program response work, which represent the majority of the partnership's investments. In the past three years, investment in TfG's advocacy and communications work grew significantly, and we anticipate this area of work to continue to expand in the future.

**The Together for Girls partnership made incredible progress in the past three years. This progress is made possible by our donors, partners and supporters. We thank all of you for enabling us to continue this work to end violence against children.**

## THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR:

There is strength in numbers. By working together, across sectors, we can break the cycle of violence against children and adolescents and build back a safer world for generations to come.

*To learn more and find out how to get involved, visit us at [togetherforgirls.org](http://togetherforgirls.org).*

## MAJOR DONORS 2019-2021\*

The African Partnership to End Violence Against Children  
 Anonymous Donor 1  
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 BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company)  
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 Green Room Communications  
 Ignite Philanthropy: Inspiring the End to Violence Against Girls and Boys, a project of the New Venture Fund  
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 Oak Foundation  
 The Perrigo Company Charitable Foundation  
 UNAIDS  
 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
 United States Agency for International Development (USAID)  
 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
 U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONS\*

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
 Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children  
 Global Affairs Canada  
 Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)  
 UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (UN SRSG-VAC)  
 Together for Girls, Inc.  
 UNAIDS  
 United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
 UNICEF  
 UN Women  
 USAID  
 Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy  
 World Health Organization (WHO)

\*As of June 30, 2021

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To make a tax-deductible donation, visit [togetherforgirls.org](http://togetherforgirls.org)

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for girls**