

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

Together for Girls
Stakeholder Report
2015-2016



Together for girls
Ending violence against children



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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

It was a pivotal year for the Together for Girls partnership as we continued to deliver important results and advances across our three pillars of action.

Together for Girls is now active in 21 countries, with the addition of China, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras over the past year. Nine countries completed the Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) and are using the data to inform and guide a comprehensive multi-sector response. In 2015 alone, three new countries – Malawi, Nigeria and Zambia – released their key VACS findings. This means with all the surveys combined, we now have data representing almost 11 percent of the world's population under the age of 25.

The actions underway in Malawi and Nigeria in response to their survey findings are a strong demonstration of the commitment of these two countries. At a launch event in March 2015, Malawi released its action plan and committed to work on 10 goals to increase prevention, referral and response services (see page 13 for highlights of the country's progress on these goals). Together with its survey findings, Nigeria launched a Year of Action to End Violence Against Children in September 2015, and its first state-specific action plan for Lagos followed in February 2016. Other partner countries – including Cambodia, Kenya, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe – continue to make impressive advances toward achieving their targets as well.

This year also provided further evidence of the central role of Together for Girls as a thought leader and convener in the area of violence, health and human rights. We brought experts and stakeholders together to share learning, research and best practices to advance the state of the art, especially concerning adolescents. We have contributed to advances in research through the VACS, promoted accountability through our partnership's Results Framework, and accelerated broader monitoring and evaluation efforts as well as best practices for program and policy development and implementation.

On the global advocacy and communications front, we are reaching a wide-ranging audience of experienced researchers, advocates and youth across the globe. Together for Girls promotes data and solutions to violence against

children utilizing a variety of platforms, including a web site featuring survey results, program reports and advocacy tools, the online magazine *Safe*, a rapidly growing social media presence, media stories and op-eds and activities at major events. Through this work, Together for Girls communicates the expertise of global and country-level policy leaders and influencers, grassroots heroes working to end violence, and a strong and growing presence of youth voices across an expanding number of countries and regions.

Sustainable Development Goals and Targets Focused on Gender Equality and Violence Prevention

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

TARGETS:

- 5.1 - End all forms of discrimination of women and girls everywhere
- 5.2 - Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and other types of sexual exploitation
- 5.3 - Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.

TARGETS:

- 16.1 - Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 16.2 - End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.7 - Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

With a 2015 secretariat budget of under U.S. \$1 million a year to date, we are proud to share that the partnership leveraged an estimated \$21 million of financial resources in 2015 – a 40 percent increase over the previous year – through direct and in-kind contributions from key partners, including UNICEF, the U.S. government, the Government of Canada, and private sector funders such as BD.

The World Wakes Up

It has also been a landmark year for the violence prevention and response community as a whole. In the face of findings published in *Pediatrics* by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that reported one billion children experience some form of violence each year, the world started making major strides to respond to this issue by including violence prevention and response in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by all United Nations member states in September 2015.

The SDGs provide a highly comprehensive pathway to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. Thanks in no small part to the data generated through the Together for Girls partnership and the advocacy efforts of our partners and many others in communities working on

child protection, women’s empowerment, public health, education and social justice, the issue of violence prevention and response appears prominently in the SDGs (see sidebar on page 4). This is also integral to the achievement of many of the SDG targets, such as HIV and AIDS prevention (particularly among adolescent girls), education, and making cities safe.

The passage of the SDGs provides an incredible opportunity to build on the momentum around this issue and take the violence prevention and response work to the next level. We are already seeing strong commitments evidenced, for example, through the new Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

Together for Girls looks forward to continuing to innovate and grow across our three pillars of action to further accelerate progress. Violence against children and women cannot be addressed by one single organization or sector. We need leaders and organizations from all sectors to work together to develop and implement a host of multi-sector solutions – it is the only way we can end this egregious human rights violation experienced by far too many children and adolescents. We are proud of the commitment and compassion of our partners and stakeholders, and it is a privilege for us to lead such a powerful initiative.



Gary M. Cohen
Founder of Together for Girls
Executive Vice President
& President, Global
Health & Development
BD (Becton, Dickinson
and Company)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary M. Cohen'.



**Michele
Moloney-Kitts**
Director of Together for Girls
Senior Advisor to the
Executive Director of UNAIDS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michele Moloney-Kitts'.

INTRODUCTION

Together for Girls is a global public-private partnership dedicated to ending violence against children, with a focus on sexual violence against girls. Our mission is to mobilize and sustain a movement to end the deep human rights violations, public health impacts and long-term individual and social consequences associated with violence against children, especially sexual violence against girls.

Pillars of Work

In partnership with national governments, civil society and the private sector, Together for Girls generates national data illuminating the problem of violence against children and mobilizes support for country-driven efforts for change. Collectively, our partners combine their unique strengths and expertise to ensure a coordinated and robust response.

Together for Girls supports three pillars of work:

- 1 National surveys and data** to document the magnitude, nature and impact of physical, emotional and sexual violence against children to inform government leaders, civil society and donors.
- 2 Evidence-based, coordinated policy and program actions** in countries to address issues identified through the surveys, including legal and policy reform, improved services for children who have experienced violence and prevention programs.
- 3 Global advocacy and public awareness** efforts to draw attention to the problem and promote evidence-based solutions.

OUR PARTNERS

Global Partners

Our partners work at both the national and global levels to guide, coordinate and financially support the three pillars of Together for Girls' work. Many of them serve on the partnership's Leadership Council, setting the direction for priorities and activities. Partners include the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the following organizations:



Country Partners

Country governments lead and own the process of addressing violence against children, working under the direction of a multi-sector task force of government and civil society members. Using data to first understand the problem, these countries drive national and local action tailored to their own contexts and specific challenges. In 2016, China and three new countries in Central America will receive funding and support through Together for Girls partners. Expanding our work to a new region – Central America – provides an important opportunity to address the issues of violence that are so prevalent in the region as well as increase learning globally.



BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

The Intersection Between Violence Against Women and Children

The new Sustainable Development Goals commit to ending violence against women and violence against children. What will it take to achieve these goals? Girls and boys who experience or witness violence as children are more likely to be victimized again or abuse others as

adults. A life course approach, with interventions that address the different types of violence that children can be exposed to at various ages, can stop this pattern and set children on a more positive path.



PRENATAL (BEFORE BIRTH)

- Support positive parenting and healthy relationships with intimate partners during pregnancy and throughout a child's life

EARLY CHILDHOOD (AGE 0-4 YEARS OLD)

- Pre-school/early childhood education
- Identify and care for abused children
- Home visits from nurses to at-risk families



EARLY ADOLESCENCE (10-14 YEARS OLD)

- Ensure safe travel to school, especially for girls
- Teach boys and girls their rights
- Comprehensive life skills and sexual health education, including HIV



SCHOOL-AGE (5-9 YEARS OLD)

- Make schools safe
- Eliminate corporal punishment
- Anti-bullying programs
- Mental health services and other support for children who experience violence



ADOLESCENCE (15-18 YEARS OLD)

- Healthy dating programs
- Community dialogue and violence awareness
- Access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, including HIV

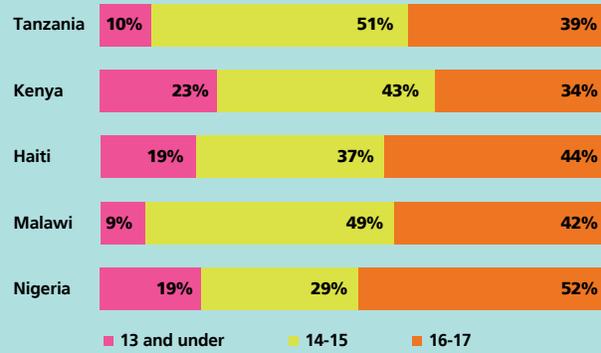


Preventing violence in childhood increases the likelihood of healthy relationships with future partners and children, breaking the cycle of violence.

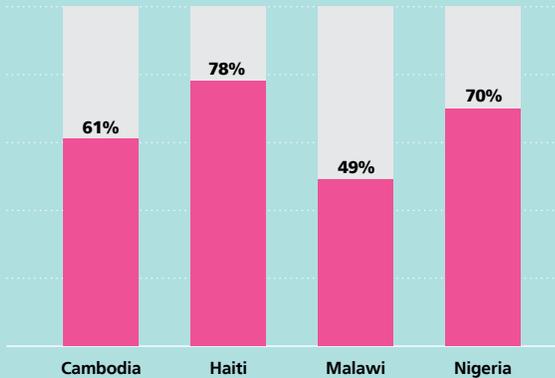
Violence Against Children Survey Findings

Girls are at risk for sexual violence throughout childhood and adolescence

Age of first incident of unwanted completed sex in childhood, reported by 18-24 year old females

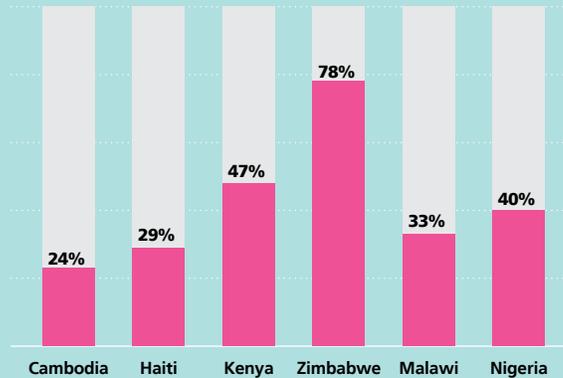


Age gaps are common between survivors of sexual abuse and perpetrators



Percentage of females aged 18-24 who experienced sexual violence who reported a perceived **age gap with the perpetrator of five or more years older**

Intimate partners are often perpetrators of sexual violence

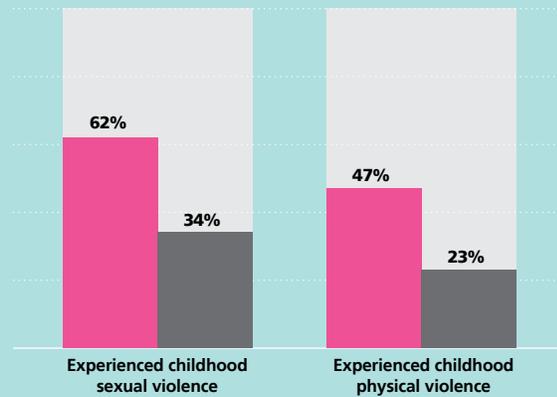


Percentage of females 18-24 reporting first sexual violence incident prior to age 18 perpetrated by boyfriend/partner

Boys who experience violence as children are significantly more likely to perpetrate violence against a partner

Percentage of males in Malawi 18-24 who report using violence against a partner among those who did and did not experience childhood violence

■ used violence ■ did not use violence



INTERVENTIONS NEEDED THROUGHOUT CHILDHOOD

- Positive Parenting Support • Child Participation • Economic Strengthening • Laws, Policies and Services That Protect Children • Healthy Gender and Social Norms • Community Programs

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

PILLAR 1: NATIONAL SURVEYS AND DATA

With the release of three Violence Against Children Surveys, 2015 was a banner year for the partnership. Together for Girls (TfG) now has data from nine countries, representing almost 11 percent of the world's population under the age of 25. Learn about the country-led surveys below and see highlights from the findings on the next page.

Malawi

In March 2015, the Government of the Republic of Malawi released its Violence Against Children and Young Women Report along with an action plan on its priority areas of intervention and support for programs in March 2015.



Nigeria

The Federal Republic of Nigeria shared its preliminary survey findings in September 2015 with the full report launched in February 2016. Nigeria is the first country in West Africa to conduct a VACS. In response to the survey findings, President Muhammadu Buhari launched the Year of Action to End Violence Against Children in September. This was a call to action for not only federal and state ministries and agencies, but also for non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, media, communities, parents and children to join together to prevent and respond to violence against children.



Zambia

The Government of Zambia shared preliminary findings from its Health and Wellbeing Survey (H-Well) on violence against children in November 2015 in Lusaka. In response to these findings, a three-day workshop among key ministries and civil society was held to produce core priority commitments, which will guide the elaboration of a full multi-sectoral national response plan.

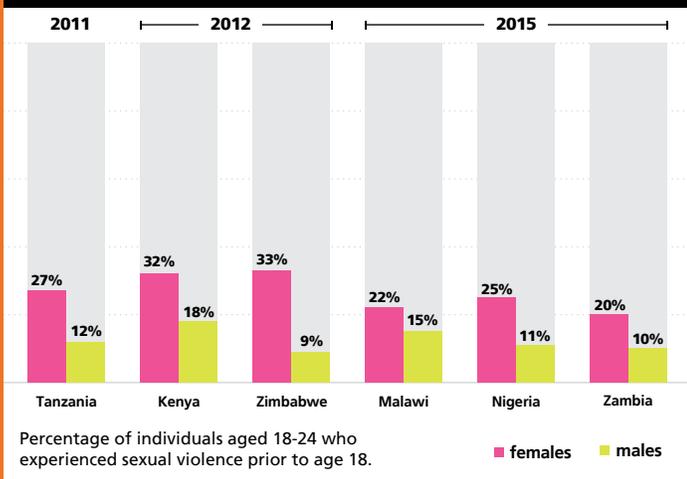
Left: The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children Marta Santos Pais joins national leaders and youth at the Malawi VACS launch event. Right: Youth leaders speak out at the Nigeria VACS launch event. Credits: ©UNICEF/2015

2015 VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN SURVEY FINDINGS

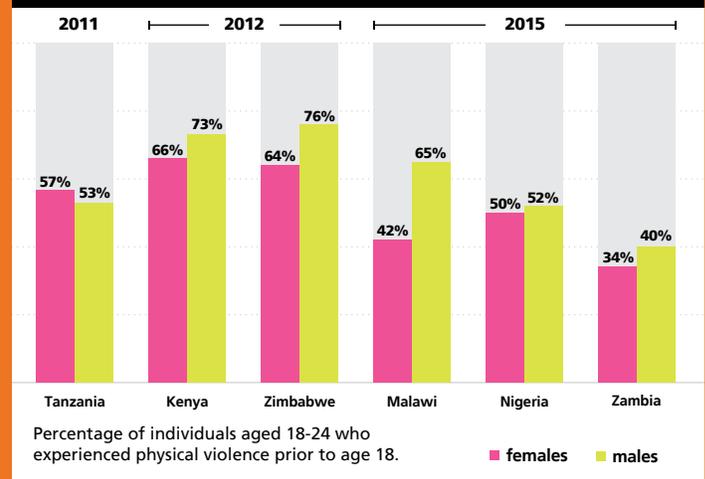
“The survey highlights that millions of Nigerian children are suffering violence every year and most are suffering in silence. We cannot allow these findings to sit on the shelf. They are an urgent call not only for government, but also for all Nigerians to take action to end violence against children.”

- Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development Dr. Ezekiel Oyemomi

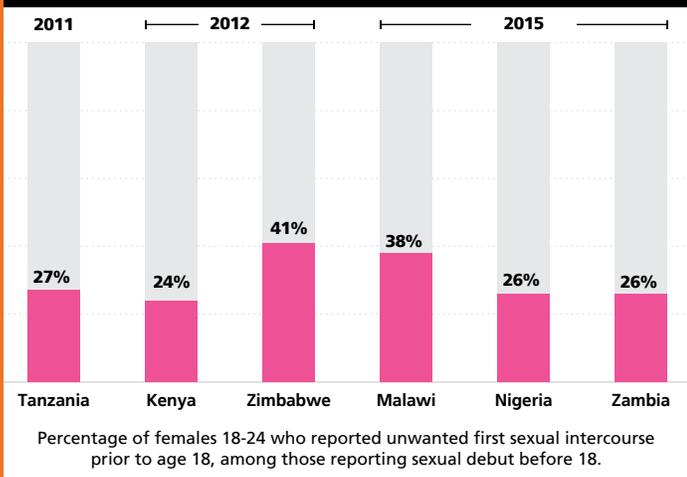
Girls and boys experience high rates of sexual violence before age 18.



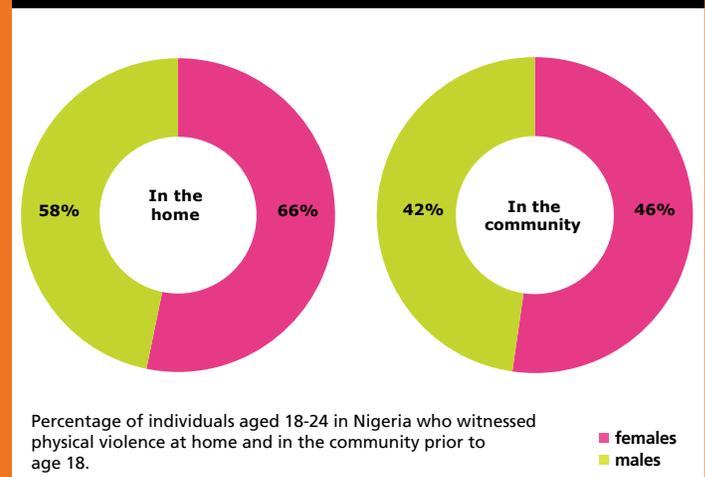
Over half of all children experience physical violence before age 18.



For more than 1 in 4 girls, first sexual intercourse was unwanted.



Witnessing violence is common and hurts children.



Data from other African countries that previously completed VACS in 2011 and 2012 have been included in the above charts to provide context and the ability to compare the information with the 2015 VACS findings.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

PILLAR 2: POLICY AND PROGRAM RESPONSE

The Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) can be a transformative tool for engaging governments to develop programs and policy; helping to build networks; and promoting solutions-focused advocacy. As the field of violence prevention and response grows, and more countries move from data to national action, TfG has been focused on supporting a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach at the national and local level, as well as promoting learning.

National Action Guidance

Drawing on the experience and lessons learned to date from different countries, TfG developed a publication, titled “Considerations for Developing Comprehensive National Actions to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children.” It consolidates lessons learned from countries undertaking the national action planning process and highlights issues to consider and key content areas to include as new countries undertake the critical process of converting the data from the survey into a coordinated, national, multi-sector response to violence against children.

Accountability for Results

In late 2015, TfG disseminated the partnership’s Results Framework, a critical tool that will promote accountability towards progress across the partnership in achieving our goals. It is intended to help measure the partnership’s impact on policy, programs, research, and awareness related to violence against children on a national and global level across TfG’s three pillars of work. The framework is already guiding reporting across several grants, and we are in the process of making it more broadly operational.

Thanks to the growing experience in implementing VACS and violence prevention and response work, TfG also dedicated efforts in 2015 to reviewing our experiences to date and building lessons to both improve the VACS questionnaire and process as well as contribute to global advancement in tracking violence prevention and response efforts, especially in the context of the

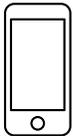
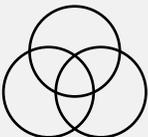
new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). TfG also sought wider external input with a group of leading research and evaluation experts, representing partners, academic institutions, and leading global research institutions. Framed within the context of the SDGs, major discussion points included best practices in methodology, interim monitoring, surveillance systems, linkages with gender-based violence research, and when and how to better align and harmonize across surveys.

Community-Based Partner in Swaziland Receives Grant to Expand and Research Empowerment Programming

Together for Girls’ partner Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) is one of more than 20 winners of the first Grand Challenge: *Putting Women and Girls at the Center of Development*, an initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. With technical and evaluation support from Together for Girls and Population Council, SWAGAA will identify the most vulnerable girls within communities in two regions of the country to participate in its school-based Girls’ Empowerment Program, looking at the impact of the program on sexual and reproductive health and experiences of violence as well as empowerment and self-efficacy. Project innovations include piloting a complementary boys’ engagement group and out-of-school girls’ empowerment program, and creating regional multi-sectoral networks to strengthen adolescent health and violence services, linked to the girls’ groups. Together for Girls is proud to have supported the grant proposal development and to play an important ongoing role in the implementation of this exciting new program.

Malawi's Progress By the Numbers

Since the launch of Malawi's Violence Against Children Survey in March 2015, the country has made tremendous headway toward its 10 goals to increase prevention, referral and response services. Malawi has increased budgetary allocations for services, started a marketing campaign to expand public awareness and strengthened the protective environment, for example, by issuing the country's first free birth certificates. Below are some of the key highlights from 2015-2016.

GOAL	PROGRESS
<p>1.  Empower and mobilize children to prevent violence against women and children</p>	<p>16,080 girls and 4,980 boys in seven districts have been trained in innovative empowerment and self-defense strategies developed by NoMeansNo Global in partnership with the Ministry of Education. Preliminary research indicates girls participating in the program saw a reduction in the incidence of rape by nearly 50 percent, while girls in the control group saw the incidence of rape increase.</p>
<p>2.  Enact the Trafficking in Persons Bill and the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Bill into law and enforce the procedures in place</p>	<p>Both bills have been enacted, and the laws are being disseminated to the district level through civil society, police, social welfare and justice mechanisms. Bylaws are being enacted by traditional leaders to support the adherence to and understanding of the laws at the local level. Important precedents have included the annulling of over 330 child marriages by Traditional Chief Kachindomoto in the Dedza District in 2015.</p>
<p>3.  Expand the Child Helpline's free 116 number by making it available on all major Malawian telecommunication operators and generate a 50 percent increase in child abuse-related calls</p>	<p>Two out of three Malawian telecommunication providers are now servicing the 116 free call number. The Malawi Communications and Revenue Authority is in negotiations with the remaining provider to allow the free call number. The number of violence and abuse calls received by the child helpline has increased by almost 100 percent in 2015 despite the overall volume of calls decreasing.</p>
<p>4.  Strengthen multi-sectoral response services by increasing the number of clients seen at one stop centres from 40 per month to 60 per month by December 2015</p>	<p>More than 850 survivors of rape and/or sexual violence were seen at one stop centres in 2015, indicating an increase to almost 75 cases per month. The Ministry of Health, in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA, is developing more one stop centres with the goal of having a centre in each district. This case number will also increase in response to the national marketing campaign.</p>
<p>5.  Increase access to police and community response services</p>	<p>Sexual abuse cases handled at the police victim support units in 2015 increased by 18 percent. From 2012-2015, cases reported at the community victims support units have increased by 28 percent.</p>
<p>6.  Strengthen response to sexual offenses in schools</p>	<p>The Malawi Police Service has initiated a Safe Schools program, which includes installation of police-monitored complaint boxes at schools in seven districts, referral support and prevention programming. The program is implemented in conjunction with the Ministry of Education's National Education Standards whereby Education Advisers assess each school on a range of issues, including school safety.</p>
<p>7.  Increase access to justice for survivors, including successful rape convictions of perpetrators</p>	<p>The number of civil and criminal cases registered at child justice courts in Malawi has increased by 33 percent. Data is still being collected on the conviction rate and the nature of cases being handled.</p>

SPOTLIGHTS



Program Spotlight: Self-Defense Training in Malawi

“NOOOOO!” yells a girl in loud and firm voice, her body ready to defend. She looks small, but her spirit is strong. She believes in herself, hence her strong defense stance. When she strikes, she uses her hands, her knee, voice and feet to smash the red boxing bag with full force.

“Before I started the training, I felt insecure, but now I know how I can defend myself. It has made me so much more confident.”

Malawi’s VACS reveals that a significant number of girls in Malawi are exposed to violence, but this girl is ready to defend herself, using the skills she acquired in the preventive self-defense training at her school.

With support from the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID) and the Royal Norwegian Embassy, UNICEF is partnering with Plan Malawi and ActionAid Malawi to implement key components of the violence prevention program.

The trainers of Ujamaa – the NGO which is implementing the violence prevention program in schools – use encouraging shouts, boxing bags and mitts for girls from to boost their confidence and practice their self-defense techniques. Ujamaa is providing six weeks of self-defense training sessions for 60 girls in 165 schools.

“Before I started the training, I felt insecure, but now I know how I can defend myself. It has made me so much more confident, said Grace Mwenda, age 10. “I’ve even taught the techniques that I learnt to my 17-year-old sister. My parents were very happy with that.”

The techniques Grace taught to her sister do not only include physical defense training. She also learned the importance of a simple but very effective tool anyone can use: a voice.

Girls can get away in case of an assault by yelling, naming the behavior, warning for consequences, negotiating, lying, making a scene or calling for help. In collaboration with Stanford University, Ujamaa conducted research on the same program in Kenya, which showed that for 83 percent of girls, these verbal techniques alone were the first line of defense. Half of all girls did not have to use physical force to get away.

The Stanford study in Kenya showed that students who followed the self-defense training were more likely to talk about sexual violence they had suffered in the past, thus opening the door to potential support and intervention. The VACS show that, in contrast to other countries, abused children in Malawi are already more likely to tell someone about the violence. However, disclosure to friends and relatives was significantly higher than to a service provider, authority figure or someone else, which tends to result in a low level of receiving professional help.

It's still too early for data on this recently-implemented program in Malawi, but trainers already see how girls are changing. "I've always had a passion to stand up against the gender-based violence that many girls face, but girls did not talk that easily to me when I was their teacher," trainer Alice Mkondia explains. "As a trainer for Ujamaa, I am instructing

full-force defense techniques and more and more girls come and open up to me. They even call to report abuse, calling me sister."

Working with social welfare offices in the districts, as well as with police victim support units and mother groups, Ujamaa is making sure that girls who speak to trainers like Mkondia can find help through referral services. They also introduce abused girls to the 12-step healing classes called Sexual Assault Survival Anonymous.

But change won't come if only girls are taken into consideration. That's why Ujamaa is also implementing their curriculum focused on boys in 23 schools with 60 boys each. The program aims to reduce negative sexual stereotypes that adolescent boys may have towards girls. The boys curriculum is also empowering boys to have the courage to stand up to sexual assault and harassment in their communities.

Bertha Okello, program coordinator and Trainer of Trainees at Ujamaa said: "When we go to schools to train the girls, boys are already asking when we will come for them." The instructors dream of giving trainings for girls and boys all over the country, raising a generation that is making clear: "No means no!"

– Story courtesy of UNICEF Malawi





Youth Leader Spotlight: Tin, 22, Cambodia

Tin watches with anticipation as her 15-year-old student Dalin attempts a new trick. She cheers excitedly when Dalin nails it. When Tin, 22, joined the youth leadership program of the NGO Skateistan in Cambodia three years ago, she had never even stepped on a skateboard. She was quickly hooked. In addition to her training, Tin practiced skateboarding every day and taught herself by watching YouTube videos.

“Youth have many great ideas, but don’t always have a chance to share. We can also share with our communities, villages, families — what violence is and why it must stop.”

She was soon working as a teacher for the organization. “Teaching is really exciting. Before I was a student — now

I’m a teacher and my students look up to me.” Many of the children Tin teaches come from Phnom Penh’s most disadvantaged and marginalized communities. “When I see them I look back to my past, which was sad also. I want to give them skills to grow their lives.”

Tin’s face lights up when she talks about teaching girls. “I’m really happy to share what I know, especially with girls. They can be shy or afraid to do what they want. I want to help because I was a shy girl, afraid to go outside of my community.”

The goal of the lessons Tin teaches is to use skateboarding as a tool for the education and empowerment of children and young people. After every one-hour skateboarding session, Tin leads an hour of arts education. Her class is full of energy and enthusiasm.

Thanks to her work as a young leader, Tin was put forward to join UNICEF’s Youth Representative Group. These 20 adolescents and young people are taking part in the development of the Cambodian Government’s action plan

to combat violence against children. They are ensuring that the perspectives of children and young people are heard and reflected in the action plan.

Tin has very personal reasons for her commitment to ending violence against children. “I was born to a poor family with violence also. My father used to drink every day. My mum, sister and brother all got violence from my father. I was very young when the violence started. I wanted to run away from home, but if I leave I put my mum in trouble.”

Tin is convinced of the importance of involving young people in tackling violence against children. “Youth have many great ideas, but don’t always have a chance to share. We can also share with our communities, villages, families — what violence is and why it must stop.”

Tin has come a long way since her troubled childhood. Under the name ‘Gitin’, she is the confident and charismatic presenter of a daily radio show. At lunchtime, she rides her motorbike for 20 minutes through the dusty backstreets of Phnom Penh to reach the studios of Sky Radio.

With her co-presenter DJ Nano, she enjoys chatting with callers and playing the songs they request. They laugh a lot — it’s a fun and light-hearted show. “I want people around me to be happy. I want to show my skill to them. I always want to learn something new!”

Tin hopes that in the future Cambodian children will be safe from violence. “I hope that violence goes down and down until it stops. I don’t want any violence against kids. I don’t want violence to be a barrier to their future.”

She also has some words of advice for young people in Cambodia who want to make a difference to their country.

“When we want to do something it starts at the first floor, from the ground up. Don’t be afraid or shy to do what you want to do! You have to fight to show what you have. Problems always have solutions — don’t give up!”

– Story by Sam Waller, courtesy of UNICEF Cambodia



REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

PILLAR 3: GLOBAL ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Through high profile public events, publications, infographics, social media and special campaigns, TfG raises awareness about the many facets of violence against children and encourages individuals, communities and governments to take action. For the past two years, TfG has almost doubled our followers on social media each year and has increasingly provided new opportunities for youth to advocate for their rights and issues that matter to them through TfG's social and digital platforms. The following are a few highlights from the partnership's advocacy and communications work.

Advocacy Campaigns

The Every Hour Matters Campaign

TfG launched the Every Hour Matters campaign, which aims to increase awareness about the critical importance of post-rape care and calls on national and community leaders to ensure comprehensive services are widely available. The campaign centers on getting the word out that survivors have 72 hours to receive post-exposure prophylaxis that can prevent HIV and 120 hours to receive emergency contraception. It also highlights the particular vulnerability of children and the importance of reducing stigma around rape.

TfG hosted three events for Every Hour Matters, a launch event at the U.S. Capitol Building, in which Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) was an honorary co-host, and two events at the United Nations' Commission of the Status of Women. These events included a young survivor from Malawi, Malawi's Minister of Gender, Children, and Community Development Patricia Kaliati, and the United States Ambassador-at Large for Global Women's Issues Catherine Russell, among many other important voices from the Together for Girls partnership and civil society.



PHOTOS BY JOEL SHEAKOSKI

Sustainable Development Goal Advocacy

At the United Nations General Assembly, TfG leaders Gary Cohen and Michele Moloney-Kitts spoke at several events, advocating for violence prevention and response targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be prioritized for implementation. TfG also joined with the UN Foundation, Nike Foundation, Plan International and several other organizations to advocate for adolescent girl-focused targets. In addition, TfG created a post-2015 advocacy toolkit: "Eliminating Violence Against Children: An Indicator for Success" to aid partners in our joint efforts to raise awareness among global influencers, country government leaders and civil society members of the importance of supporting Target 16.2 of the SDGs. The target aims to end all forms of violence against children and was officially approved during the UN General Assembly.

Youth Engagement

Safe Magazine

Safe magazine, TfG's online digital magazine, is now publishing new stories each month in a new format at safe-magazine.com. As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in November, TfG published its annual list of global heroes featuring 16 incredible leaders, advocates and change makers across the world. Youth writers from Ethiopia to Kosovo are also using the platform to weigh in on what it means to be safe.

The World in Your Hands Art Contest

TfG partnered with the Coalition for Adolescent Girls on the World in Your Hands Contest, which launched on International Day of the Girl. Girls were encouraged to use their creativity to generate a piece of art that illustrates how they might address one of the barriers facing adolescent girls such as poor health, lack of access to education and gender-based violence. We received dozens of entries from 11 countries and featured the winners' art (see first place piece pictured to the right) in *Safe* magazine and at the UN's Commission on the Status of Women.



Global Fora

Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting

TfG Founder Gary Cohen reported progress on the TfG Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Commitment to Action, "Addressing Sexual Violence Against Girls," during a panel discussion with actress and activist Ashley Judd and McKinsey & Company's Anu Madgavkar at the opening breakout session: "The Economic Implications of Gender-Based Violence," of the CGI 2015 Annual Meeting.

The Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum

The Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum, co-sponsored by TfG, was held in September in South Africa and featured the work of several TfG global partners as well as data and response efforts from several country partners, including Malawi, Tanzania and Haiti.



PHOTO BY ADAM SCHULTZ/CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE

The World Economic Forum

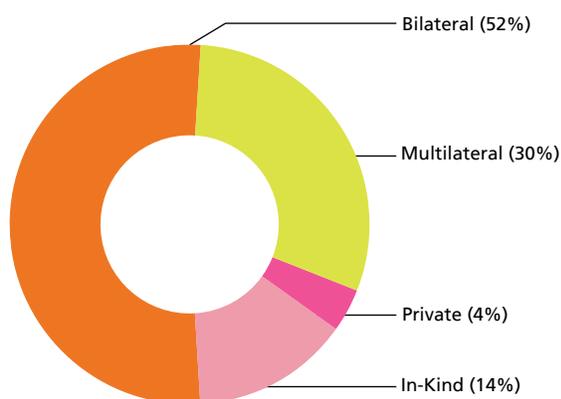
TfG Director Michele Moloney-Kitts was featured on a Global Health and Security Forum side event during the 2015 World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Hosted by the Honourable Christian Paradis of Canada, the Center for Global Health and Diplomacy, GAIN, BD and Together for Girls, the event focused on the intersection of health and security through several discrete lenses – education, nutrition, prevention of violence against women and girls, and maternal and child health.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

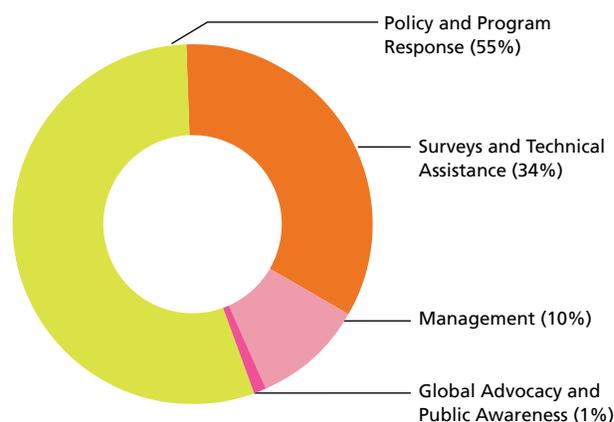
MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS AND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

	2015
Incoming Resources*	
Bilateral	\$11,008,377
Multilateral	\$6,310,000
Private	\$750,803
In-Kind	\$2,872,394
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	\$20,941,574
Resources Expended	
Surveys and Technical Assistance	\$4,864,593
Policy and Program Response	\$7,894,948
Global Advocacy and Public Awareness	\$116,772
Partner and Secretariat Management**	\$1,352,086
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	\$14,228,399
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2014	\$5,900,888
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2015***	\$6,713,175
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO BE EXPENDED IN 2016	\$12,614,063

SOURCES OF INCOME



EXPENDITURES



* The financial overview provided is an estimate of the partnership's total incoming and expended resources.

** Management costs reflect several of our partner agencies' costs to oversee Together for Girls' implementation efforts as well as secretariat expenses. Secretariat expenses represent about half of the overall management costs.

*** All resources carried forward from 2015 are fully programmed for work in 2016.

Together for Girls is a public-private partnership. A leadership council – which brings together key leaders from partner agencies – provides overall guidance and strategic direction, monitors the implementation of agreed policies, plans and activities, and ensures coordination among the components of the partnership’s operation plan. A small secretariat orchestrates the activities of all the partners, facilitates the achievement of partnership goals and objectives, and carries out the day-to-day operations of the partnership. Technical experts within each of the partner agencies provide support for the work. In countries where Together for Girls is active, work is led by country governments through a multi-sector task force or steering committee and in-country partners coordinate and take responsibility for work locally.

The Together for Girls model is designed to promote coordination and leverage resources from partner organizations, private sector donors and government entities. Funding is channeled through several mechanisms, depending on which activities the funds are intended to support. The CDC Foundation, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF and the United Nations Foundation have received and administered funds that support partnership activities. Other funds are transferred internally within partner organizations – and are accounted for through their audited financial statements.

While Together for Girls, Inc., the 501(c)(3) associated with the partnership, was originally established in 2011, this year

we moved to increase efficiencies by channeling our private sector donations directly through this entity, reducing our reliance on fiduciary agents, particularly for secretariat support. Overseen by a Board of Directors, Together for Girls, Inc. files an IRS 990 form annually, which is available upon request. The financial overview provided in this report is an estimate of the partnership’s incoming and expended resources.

Notes on the Financial Overview

The financial overview for 2015 includes direct funding from donors and partners as well as an estimate of in-kind resources leveraged. It does not fully account for national governments’ financial contributions to the work.

Together for Girls’ largest donors and implementing partners for this period were the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UNICEF, the Government of Canada and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These partners have largely funded our country partners’ survey, policy and program response work, which represent the majority of the partnership’s investments. The Government of Canada, BD, Together for Girls Founder Gary Cohen, UNAIDS, UN Women, Elevate Children Funders Group and several private sector donors contributed to the secretariat’s operational, global advocacy and management costs, which remain low overall at less than \$750,000.

DONORS 2015

Anonymous Donor I
Anonymous Donor II
BD
Gary Cohen
Elevate Children Funders Group
Government of Canada
UNAIDS
UNICEF
UN Women
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)

SECRETARIAT STAFF

Michele Moloney-Kitts, Director and Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of UNAIDS
Rebecca Gordon, Senior Program Advisor
Sandie Taylor, Director of Communications and Operations
Jaimee Swift, Communications and Youth Advocacy Officer, Global Health Corps Fellow

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS

Gary Cohen, BD
Kathleen Flynn-Dapaah, Government of Canada
EJ Jacobs, Nduna Foundation
Michele Moloney-Kitts, Together for Girls Secretariat
Lisa Carty, UNAIDS
Malayah Harper, UNAIDS
Upala Devi, UNFPA
Theresa Kilbane, UNICEF
Cornelius Williams, UNICEF
Gretchen Bachman, USAID
Diana Prieto, USAID
Howard Kress, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Dr. James Mercy, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Lauren Marks, U.S. Department of State’s Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator
Janet Saul, U.S. Department of State’s Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator

LOOKING FORWARD



PHOTO BY OLGA LUCÍA ZULUAGA

As we move ahead, Together for Girls will be working to accelerate momentum on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through our support to survey, program, policy, and advocacy efforts with global and country partners. A few critical next steps are on the horizon:

Evolving the model

Our rapid growth to new countries and regions presents a rich opportunity to continue to learn and adapt our model to different contexts and cultures. Latin America, for example, is a region with considerable experience in violence prevention and response and one where we will also have the opportunity to work with new partners. Together for Girls partners are working together to review and adapt our partnership model to best meet the needs of this region.

Contributing to state of the art

Continuing to strengthen and refine the VACS by incorporating new areas of investigation including, for example, community violence and perpetration, is a priority. Cognitive testing in Colombia and other countries, along with strong expert input, will facilitate this effort.

We also plan to enhance links between global, national, and regional research priorities and capacities through a regional meeting to discuss monitoring and evaluation focused on implementation.

Taking the data to action

Promoting learning across countries, Together for Girls will help expand local capacity and expertise on what works best to prevent and respond to violence. We are excited to partner with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children to roll-out the package of evidence-based practices on prevention and response to violence, particularly in countries like Tanzania where programming is going to scale. Another opportunity is in Swaziland where a new grant is supporting research to identify the impact of empowerment programs, including a pilot focused on boys and gender norms.

Expanding youth engagement

Globally, we are striving to include youth in our advocacy platforms, including in *Safe* magazine, at events and on social media. In the coming year, we will be working to increase boys' participation in particular.

JOIN US

One individual, government or organization cannot end violence alone. Partnership is critical to a future free from violence, and we need you to be part of it. Join Together for Girls in our mission to break the silence and end violence against children.

To read the full VACS reports and find out how to get involved, visit us at www.togetherforgirls.org and on Facebook and Twitter.

Donate

To make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.togetherforgirls.org.

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Contact Us

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Together for girls
Ending violence against children

